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Latest Mail dates in England, from China.
Hongkong, ...

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The North-China Herald.

IMPARTIAL, NOT NEUTRAL.

SHANGHAI, FRIDAY, MARCH 14, 1879.

WE have recently on various occasions drawn attention to the certainty and rapidity wherewith England and China are, by the force of circumstances, being brought into the bonds of a common interest. There is every reason to believe that the causes which have produced this tendency and which are still in active operation, will continue to lead the statesmen of one and the other Empire into still closer union. It is almost impossible to anticipate any actual rivalry between China and England in Central Asia. Many scores of years must elapse before the commercial interests of the two peoples can come into collision in the markets which Russia is now endeavouring to monopolise, and in the meantime both have the deepest possible interest in restraining the advance of the third great Empire. It would be vain to attempt to get at public opinion in China, even supposing that there is such a thing in existence. The two or three native newspapers that profess to be popular or official or independent organs are still exotics, not by any means thoroughly acclimatised, and in no sense reliable as expressive of the collective and genuine opinions of those they are supposed to represent. Were we to judge by them we should conclude that the advance of Russia eastward and southward interests deeply the people at large or those at least who do the thinking for the rest, but any such inference would be fallacious. The Chinese, as a nation, are so thoroughly apathetic as

regards the government under which they live, that no spark of enthusiasm could be struck from them by the cry that their territory was in danger. The articles that appear in the native press are, with perhaps here and there a rare exception, either inspired by foreigners or translated from foreign journals. But we have every reason to believe that to the highest officials the attitude of Russia, especially with respect to recent Chinese conquests, is a source of the gravest disquietude. It is noteworthy, however, that from no quarter is there a rumour heard of successful foreign intrigue among Chinese in lofty stations, although attempts have, we may be sure, been made to bring many of them over to Russian views. Whatever virtue it is that in China takes the place of patriotism, appears to be effective in retaining the most powerful mandarins in a posture of loyalty to the Throne, or perhaps, rather, to the existing system of Imperial administration. We should do wrong to the knowledge as well as to the sagacity of Chinese statesmen were we to suppose them indifferent to the aspect which the antagonism between England and Russia lends to the questions at issue between them and the representatives of the Czar's Government. Writers in European journals have professed themselves deeply struck by the dogged perseverance and grim determination with which the campaign on the north-western frontier has been prosecuted. They have been specially impressed by the fact that crops were sown along the line of march so as to ensure supplies for an indefinite period independent of aid from China itself. Against an army that organises agricultural colonies in its rear, something more than ordinary modes of warfare is required. At their earliest appearance as a nation, the Chinese concentrated all their attention and ingenuity upon laying great bases for eternity, and the same principle which guided them then guides them now. Neither time nor life enters into their general calculations. A whole generation of human

beings is to them of no more consequence than a frog in an air pump to a philosopher. What is left undone to-day will be done to-morrow or next year, or a century hence, after, according to the case, a less or greater expenditure of blood. The prospect of a collision between Russia and England to complete their convergence in Central Asia, tends no doubt to make the Chinese all the more ready to wait on time, from which they have everything to gain and little or nothing to lose. Probably enough, as soon as it is discovered that the pacific assurances which flow westward and southward from St. Petersburg fail to induce capitalists to come to the rescue of the Russian exchequer, dissembling professions will be abandoned, and by the occupation of Merv the crisis will be precipitated. This will certainly be China's opportunity, and at that moment also the advantages of a Chinese alliance will perhaps for the first time be manifest. Not very much beyond promises is to be expected as the result of Chung How's mission, for in fact the Russian satraps do exactly as they please in their Asian governments. Meanwhile, as between Russia and China the feeling of irritation is becoming more intense. Troops of banditti, probably altogether independent, but claiming to belong to one side or the other of the frontier, carry desolation far and wide. The Russians covetously eye Kashgaria, with its wealth of all but virgin mines, and diligently circulate reports that the Chinese troops are unpaid, starving, and therefore mutinous and violent, the whole land suffering in consequence and claiming emancipation in the name of humanity. The meaning of all this is plain. The real Chinese difficulty would seem to be the appearance of a pretender to the throne, who doubtless hopes much from a conflict between Russia and China, and still more from the anxiety of the independent tribes to play one power off against the other. There can be no question about the fixed resolve of the Chinese to keep Kashgaria if they can, although they are willing and even anxious to compromise the Kuldja difficulty either by negotiations on the spot or at St. Petersburg. But nothing can come of either. Inspired Russian papers complain bitterly of the arrests of traders, the robbery of caravans, and the indignities offered to professedly scientific explorers whose passports are supposed to protect them over the Chinese frontier. The Chinese exclaim against the disinclination shewn to settle the conflicting claims to Kuldja,

by which delay their hold on Kashgaria is rendered far more precarious than it otherwise would be. They are not innocent enough to think that this latter consideration will avail them much, nor are they likely to be ignorant that the Russian plan of cure for the existing evils comprehends the enforced abandonment of all Chinese claims on Kuldja, the free admission of Russian traders to the north-western provinces, and the recognition of Russian commercial and political agents in the most advantageous positions in these provinces. With views so diametrically opposed, a friendly compromise seems all but impossible. The quarrel is a very pretty quarrel as it stands, fruitful in any case with complications for Russia whenever the final struggle for the Empire of the East convulses the heart of Asia.

Summary of News.

The French mail of the 24th January arrived on Wednesday, the 12th instant, by the M.M. steamer *Amazon*.

A mail leaves for Europe to-morrow, by the M.M. steamer *Djemnah*.

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

(Via Suez.)

Supplied to the "N.-C. Daily News."

London, 5th March.

The British and French Governments have agreed in declaring to the Khedive of Egypt that Nubar Pacha's retention of office as President of the Council of Ministers is indispensable.

The last re-inforcements have left for the Cape.

Madrid, 7th March.

The Spanish Ministry have resigned. A new Ministry has been formed by General Campos.

London, 8th March.

The Polytechnic Institution has been totally burned down.

The latest news from the Cape says that General Pearson at Ekowe has repulsed with enormous loss, a large number of Zulus, pursuing them for a long distance. The native tribes in the Transvaal are causing great anxiety.

The Board of Trade Returns of Exports for last month are very unfavourable.

Constantinople, 12th March.

The British Ironclad squadron returns to Besika Bay, Turkish Troops have reoccupied Adrianople.

St. Petersburg, 12th March.

According to a Russian official statement the plague has disappeared from Astrachan.

Pesch, 12th March.

Heavy floods have utterly destroyed Szegedin in Hungary. The mortality was appalling.

The *China Mail* of 6th March, says Messrs. Sharp, Toller and Johnson, applied, before the Hon. Chief Justice Smale, on behalf of Mr. J. B. Coughtrie (attorney for the executors), for letters of administration, with the will annexed, in the estate of John Broadhurst Tootal, deceased, late of the *North-China Herald*, Shanghai. The application was granted.

Chief Justice French, and Mrs. and Miss French, arrived on Wednesday, by the M.M. mail steamer *Amazon*.

H.M. Consul, A. Davenport, Esq., and Mrs. Davenport, arrived on Thursday, from Chinkiang.

The Hon. Secretary and Treasurer of the Shanghai Recreation Fund, Mr. F. A. Groom, having resigned that office, which he had filled for the long period of eleven years, and having asked to whom he is to hand over the documents, &c., connected with the Trust,—a correspondent, whose letter appears on another page, suggests that the Municipal Council should take charge of the Fund and the valuable property pertaining to it. The duties of administering such a Trust must certainly be onerous, and the unpaid office of Secretary and Treasurer in particular can scarcely be otherwise than in some degree oppressive to any gentleman whose principal time is probably taken up in managing his own business. Therefore, we think (should there be no obstacle) the suggestion of our correspondent is a feasible one, and deserving of consideration.

The following laconic but expressive telegram has been received here, and handed to us for publication:—"Washington, 5th March, 1879.—Seward wins."

A thunderstorm, which lasted some time and was of considerable severity for the period of the year, broke over these Settlements on Wednesday afternoon. Rain fell heavily and the lightning was at times very vivid. There had been indications of atmospheric disturbance for some days previously, indicating the approaching change of monsoon. Towards evening, the wind veered to the southward, which brought the storm back, and heavy tempest again prevailed for several hours.

It is with a feeling approaching that of satisfaction that we have heard upon reliable authority, that the Viceroy Li Hung-chang has expressed his regret at the "misuse" of a character which has been interpreted to mean that his intention was to include the whole body of merchants in Shanghai in his sweeping denunciation of cheats and swindlers. The Viceroy, however, disdains to shield himself from the just indignation he has raised under the paltry subterfuge attempted to be foisted upon the Shanghai community by his native and foreign would-be apologists, viz., that the offensive character referred only to "workmen"—not to "principals." He, it is said, boldly says the character was intended to apply to certain "principals"—to those who "sold" him gunpowder that would not explode when wanted, guns that would burst when not wanted, swords and bayonets which, like Hodge's razors, were only made to sell, for being so dull and brittle they could not be relied on to cut or thrust with—cottons so clayed that they would hardly stand washing once, *et hoc genus omne!* Things in these regards are, he is reported to have said, better now, and good value in the matter of gunpowder and arms are being supplied; but such having been the fact in not far-distant days, he thought it better to found advice for the future, especially to the native cotton-mill adventurers, on the

results of his own experience and the way in which he gained knowledge as to how to avoid some kinds of commercial pitfalls.

Four steamers competed this year in the annual race with first cargoes to Tientsin, namely, the China Coast Steam Navigation Company's steamers *Shun Lee*, Captain Paynter, and the *Taku*, Captain McClure, and the China Merchants' Company's str. *Fungshun*, Captain Andrew, and the *Pautah*, Captain Patterson. The *Shun Lee* was the first to leave at 5.35 a.m. on the 27th ultimo. She was followed down the river by the other three steamers, and all four crossed the Woosung Bar within the same half hour. Outside Woosung a strong northerly wind, with rain, thick fog, and high sea, was experienced; and the vessels soon lost sight of each other. The *Pautah* grounded on a mud bank in the North Channel and was detained four hours, thereby being thrown out of the race. The *Shun Lee* went ahead and passed Shawsheian at 10.45 a.m. The fog still continued, and the wind increased to a strong northerly and N.W. gale. After the Promontory was passed at 8.15 a.m. on the 1st March, the wind slightly abated, and at noon a fresh breeze was blowing, but the sea was still running high. At 7 p.m. the Miaotau Islands were passed, and in crossing the Gulf of Pechili large quantities of floe ice were met, and the vessel had a hole stove in each of her bows, filling the fore compartment with water. Notwithstanding she made a splendid run to the Taku bar, arriving there at 6.45 a.m. on the 2nd inst., thus winning the race, so far as steaming was concerned, with none of her rivals in sight. She attempted to cross the Bar, but failed and had to anchor outside during the day. At 11.30 a.m. the *Fungshun* arrived, and at 5.30 p.m. the *Taku*, while the *Pautah* did not put in an appearance until 9 a.m. the following morning, the 3rd. The *Shun Lee* crossed the Bar with that morning's tide, but the other steamers failed to do so. The *Shun Lee* with two holes already in her bows was afraid to encounter the unbroken ice still in the river, and anchored at Taku for twenty-four hours. Between eight and nine o'clock on the morning of the 4th, the *Pautah* cleared the Bar and steamed past the *Shun Lee* into the ice, breaking her way through, and the *Shun Lee* followed in her wake. The former was eventually forced on the bank by the ice, and the *Shun Lee* again took the leading position, but soon afterwards she also took the ground and the *Pautah* passed her and arrived in Tientsin three-quarters of an hour before her. The *Fungshun* and *Taku* arrived at noon the following day, and the same afternoon the *Shun Lee* and *Pautah*, the former with Tls. 200,000 of treasure and the latter with Tls. 112,000, left for Shanghai, crossing the Taku Bar at 1 a.m. on the 6th. The *Pautah* reports that when eight miles from the Bar she fell in with the same mass of ice in the Gulf that was encountered on the upward passage, and steamed round the southerly end of it, closely followed by the *Shun Lee*. She passed the Promontory at 9 p.m. same day, and arrived in Shanghai at 10.05 a.m. on the 8th, making

the run in 57 hours from Taku, the *Shun Lee* arriving about half-an-hour afterwards. Both the *Taku* and *Fungshun* we hear severely experienced the rough weather on the passage up, and that the *Fungshun* had her wheelhouse smashed in, while the *Taku*, it is said, lost a boat, had her bridge displaced, and a hole stove in her bow. We further hear that the small steamship *Peiho*, on her passage up to Tientsin, also encountered the full force of the weather and sustained some damage.

The steamer *Appin* was announced to leave for Tientsin on Wednesday morning, but while engaged taking in cargo one of the plates in her bow was found to have been stove in by the ice. To effect the repairs she had to be docked, and her departure was postponed. She went into dock the same day, had all necessary repairs effected, left the dock again the next afternoon, and it was expected she would leave this morning. The *Shun Lee* was also docked to repair the damage she sustained on her winning trip to Tientsin, and we understand it was necessary to provide her with four or five new plates. The *Taku* and *Fungshun* were repaired without docking, and neither of them lost a trip.

News has reached us of a sad accident at Taku, resulting in the drowning of fifty-two Chinese. It will be in the recollection of our readers that one of the first vessels purchased by the China Merchants' Company was the old P. and O. steamer *Aden*, and after she had been running for a short time under their management, she was moored below the Naval Yard and remained idle for several months. As the best way to utilise her to advantage, her engines were taken out and she was towed up the Yangtze and used as a hulk, but soon afterwards she again made her appearance in Shanghai. When the immense beams of timber arrived here from the interior about twelve months ago, en route to Peking for the ancestral Palace, and the China Merchants' Company were put to their wits' end as to the way in which they were to be conveyed North, it was ultimately decided to bring into requisition the *Aden*. Ports were cut in her stern, and the huge logs stowed in her; whereupon she was towed to Tientsin by one of the Company's steamers. From there she was removed to Taku and anchored outside the Bar, where, during the open season, she served the double object of a lightship and hulk in which cargo, lighted from the Company's steamers to enable them to cross the Bar, has been stored. While the river was closed she was moored at Taku, and we are informed that on Friday, the 7th inst., she was towed to her previous position outside the Bar, and received a considerable quantity of cargo on the following day from the steamers *Leeyuen* and *Haeshin*. On Sunday morning, our informant says, cargo was being discharged, and a large quantity having been placed on one side the hulk between decks, she gave a tremendous roll, alarming the numerous coolies engaged, who, in their fright, made a rush for the *Leehong*, which was moored alongside, causing the hulk herself to fall over on her side, and the water rushing in through

the open ports, sunk her. A scene of great excitement ensued, as it was well-known that about one hundred and twenty coolies were inside of her; and though, it is said, all possible means that could be devised to rescue them were adopted, which at the best it can be easily conceived could not be very expeditiously carried out, fifty-two are reported to be drowned. At high water a portion of the roof can be seen, and according to our information few of the bodies had been recovered up to Monday morning. Besides the great sacrifice of life, about 3,000 bags of rice and a large quantity of brick tea are said to be lost. The *Leehong* was saved by her crew promptly cutting the connecting ropes.

The P. & O. S. N. Co.'s steamship *Geelong*, took the following Silk:—For London, 444 bales; New York, 36; Marseilles, 48; Lyons, 91; Venice, 32; Bombay, 48; Singapore, 34; total, 733 bales; and 15 bales Waste Silk for London.

The Temperance Hall was pretty fully attended on Thursday evening, on the occasion of the concert given in connection with the Temperance Society, by amateurs, under the conductorship of Mr. Iburg, Mr. Feutum presiding at the piano. The concert was, as usual, very successful.

H.M. corvette *Charybdis*, Capt. Hotham, has proceeded down the river to the Naval Yard to take in stores, and from thence she was to go to Woosung to complete for sea. She is said to have now paid her last visit to Shanghai during her present commission, and in the course of a few months, it is believed, she will be homeward bound. Her present destination, we learn, is Japan; after which she will visit the South-China ports and probably await her relief at Singapore. It is said the corvette *Modeste* will be flagship at Shanghai. H.M. sloop of war, *Egeria*, Commander A. L. Douglas, is at present doing duty as flagship at this port.

We learn that Wen Hwui (文惠), one of the Secretaries in the Tsung-li Yamén, has been appointed Taotai of the Kwang-Jao-Chiu-Nan Circuit in Kiangsi (Taotai of Kiukiang); and that Li Ming-ch'ih (李明輝), Financial Commissioner of Fuhkien, has been promoted to be Governor of that province, vice Yü Kw'an (裕寬), transferred to the province of Kwangtung.

We hear from CHEFOO that the steamer *Cassandra*, which was stranded on the beach near the Temperance Hall during the late severe gale, has been got off, and that she has sustained less damage than might have been expected under the circumstances.

At the annual meeting of the HONGKONG Chamber of Commerce, the Hon. P. Ryrie proposed, and Mr. Belilios seconded, the following resolution, which was supported by Mr. Granville Sharp, and carried unanimously:—"That a deputation, consisting of as many of the Committee and Members of the Chamber as can attend, do wait upon Sir Thomas Wade and lay before him the complaints of the colonists in regard to the Blockade, and also other matters connected with the trade at the new ports opened to the Southward."

For a variety of other news, from the OUTPORTS, JAPAN, &c., see other pages.

Editorial Selections.

THE RATEPAYERS' MEETING.

No more satisfactory proofs could be offered of the smoothness with which local self-government is conducted in Shanghai, and of the absolute confidence placed by the ratepayers in their representatives on the Council, than the small attendance at the annual meeting held the other day, and the tranquillity which characterised the proceedings. We have frequently had cause to know that there is no real lack of concern in Municipal affairs on the part of the community. Were there the slightest want of confidence in our administrators, their management of public funds would be, as on previous occasions it has been, subjected to strict scrutiny. The matters to be submitted were not unimportant. Half-a-million of taels was in question—a quarter of a million expended during 1878, and a like amount proposed to be levied in 1879. Yet so general and well founded is the belief that the gentlemen who generously give their ill-spaced time to the direction of public affairs, act in the best interests of the Settlement, that no more than 41 persons, representing 161 votes, put in an appearance, and even of these many merely registered their names and left. Of those who strictly speaking attended the meeting, when abstraction is made of Consular officials, members of Council, professional men and reporters, the number remaining who represented large interests in property was marvellously insignificant. Upon no point could it be said that there was a lively or earnest debate. The Report and Accounts for 1878 were passed without a voice raised either to condemn or to question. The budget for 1879 was accepted with one trifling change, in favour of the Shanghai Museum, which served only to accentuate the unanimity of the meeting in approving the Council's suggestions. Authority to raise extra funds was granted without demur, and all were agreed in confirming the Council's resolve to clear and cleanse the foreshore. Beyond the general remarks, the proceedings of the meeting are, with one exception, suggestive of no comment. That exception has reference to the lock hospital, a subject in every way so unsavoury that in our report we have merely mentioned the discussion, referring those who may wish to read it in full to the forthcoming official minutes. But as this matter was the only one which excited

any display of feeling or gave rise to any conflict of opinion, we are compelled to notice it, although we will abstain from entering into particulars.

Considering that the institution has actually been established, and granting that many, whose judgments upon the subject are specially worthy of attention, believe that it is necessary, the strictures levelled at its administration deserve serious attention. In his remarks, Dr. Jamieson carefully guarded himself against the suspicion of being an opponent of the system. His charges took the least offensive form that was possible under the circumstances, being thrown into the shape of questions to which he thought the Report of the inspecting officer ought to have furnished replies. It was perhaps impossible for the Chairman of the Council to give the desired information on the spot, although the Superintendent of Police might reasonably have been requested to reply upon points with which he doubtless was perfectly familiar. Answers will of course be forthcoming in due time, for the imputation as it now stands is sufficiently serious, being no other than that, through want of power or through a failure to exert powers with which the Council are invested, the application of the inspecting system is partial and the protection it professes to afford, delusive. Coming, as the discussion did, during the consideration of the budget, the inference was that money voted for the lock hospital was likely to be wasted. But, as we think, wisely, this was not expressed, the design being to improve the existing system, not to do away with it. We need hardly point out the impracticable character of the suggestion put forward by Mr. Purdon, that whatever protection the measure affords should be extended impartially to all persons concerned, or in other words that protection and repression should be co-extensive. We take that suggestion as one made without any expectation of its being accepted, and intended merely as a formal protest against a measure which Mr. Purdon has from the first consistently opposed. Mr. Kingsmill who has also invariably taken his stand against the lock hospital, reiterated Dr. Jamieson's charges, and recorded his disapproval upon grounds less special than those occupied by the first named speaker, while Mr. Reynolds endeavoured to shew that the edge of his general disapprobation had been whetted by what he conceived to be an insult offered to the municipality by the late naval Commander-in-chief. There was, it is true, something

ludicrous in Admiral Ryder's patronage of the Council, and in the effusiveness with which he patted it on the back and promised to use his influence with the Admiralty to obtain a grant in aid of the lock hospital. Yet much may be forgiven to an amiable but rather fussy old gentleman who honestly considered his approbation as something worth having; and much, too, has to be forgiven to the Council who, with an innocence almost pathetic, printed at large all the pretty things that the Admiral said to them. Few, we should have thought, could believe that the English Admiralty would take any notice of the Admiral's representations, even if he remembered his promise to make them. At all events, nothing has come of either his praise or his promises, and the sooner both are forgotten the better.

The fact that this brief abstract adequately represents the nature and scope of the deliberations at the last Ratepayers' meeting justifies the thesis from which we started—that the community is well governed, and is fully conscious of its good fortune.

TRADE IN CHINA.

It is satisfactory, after the numbers of years of depression which we have had from time to time to notice, to be able again to point to a revival, however small, in trade in China. The *Customs Gazette* for the last quarter of 1878 seems to indicate some such revival, in the North at least, and to promise a more satisfactory issue than we have lately had to record. The revival is most marked in Newchwang, which, although not directly affected by the famine, suffered from its results, and here during the quarter the principal staples exhibit an unwonted activity. The import of Piece Goods generally exhibited a favourable increase, but the greatest advance was in metals, indicating a demand for the purpose of house building and manufacture of agricultural implements. The import of opium was above the average, and this, the Anti-opium League notwithstanding, we take to indicate an improved condition of affairs. A general increase in the long list of sundry imports may be noted, balanced against a decrease in sugar which we must assume to be merely temporary. The reason of this improved condition of affairs we may readily perceive in the list of exports. The fertile country of which Newchwang forms the sea-port, has responded to the call for grain for the relief of the distressed districts, and was able to furnish large supplies. More than this, the cultivation of beans and the manufacture of bean-cake has largely extended, and more than a million and a half piculs were exported during the three months,

the greater portion of which were taken by Swatow, where its effects will be felt in a larger production of sugar. At Tientsin, the disturbance ceased by the famine has in great measure ceased, and the demand for imports has risen from the lowest point of 1877 nearly to its normal value. Opium has been in excess of former periods, denoting that the cultivation of the poppy at home has diminished under the necessity of stimulating to the utmost the production of grain to counteract the effects of a famine not yet entirely passed. The Customs' revenue of the two ports has increased during the quarter by the satisfactory increment of Taels 60,000. The same remarks though in a less degree apply to Chefoo, where, except in the item of sugar imported, both exports and imports showed a revival, though the normal rate had not yet been attained. On the river generally, little change took place; what there was, was generally for the better, and the increase was general in the ordinary staples of trade, though small in amount in any. The trade of Shanghai showed little change during the quarter, a larger import of piece goods being the main feature, resulting in an increase of revenue of nearly Taels 80,000.

The prosperity which was apparently reviving in the North showed little signs of appearing in the South, where the returns almost without exception point to depression. Ningpo showed a falling off in most articles of trade; Wenchow seemed quite unable to struggle against adverse circumstances; with the exception of tea, Foochow still appeared as one of the most insignificant of ports. Formosa has largely declined in its ability to absorb imports, and its exports, except tea, were in nearly similar condition. To judge from the statistics, Amoy is rapidly losing its hold on foreign trade, tea being apparently the only exception. It is known that fiscal exactions are distinguished in the neighbourhood for their severity; but it seems strange that with the inevitable result before their eyes of revenue diminishing year by year, the local officials do not see, in their own interest, the necessity of relieving the trade of its artificial fetters. Swatow alone of southern ports exhibits an increasing trade. The sugar industry has, however, for the last two years experienced a severe check. The wasteful methods of extraction and the heavy duties payable, prevent Chinese sugar from entering into competition with that from other countries, where the Governments are more alive to their own immediate interests. Still Swatow is more favourably situated in the way of fiscal levies than the other ports of Fukien, and it is curious to observe that this fact alone more than counterbalances some of the disadvantages of the port, and determines towards it many of the imports which would more naturally enter Amoy or Foochow.

LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT IN SHANGHAI.

It is satisfactory to perceive that the "Model Settlement" has so far advanced on its way to Municipal perfection, that none among the Ratepayers saw any reason to ruffle the even tenor of events by giving notice of motion in any form for discussion at the late Annual General Meeting of Ratepayers—to the Council, the elected representatives of public opinion, was left the satisfactory task of filling the agenda of the business to be brought before the meeting. This shows there must be a full measure of satisfaction existent in the community, —and no wonder, when the sanitary progress of the last two years is considered—improved drainage, widened thoroughfares, rounded corners, &c., all of which are actual proofs that those to whom have been entrusted the "watch and ward" of the Settlements generally, have fulfilled their trust and provided a legacy of good local self-government which will leave a comparatively smooth task to their successors. It is said to be easy to follow a bad example, but not so a good one, not only in public but in private affairs; and in a place like Shanghai, where so much depends on good example for future progress among the native inhabitants who surround us in tens of thousands, how necessary it is that the fine results of Home advancement in Municipal affairs should be exhibited to them in the shape of public works. This is merely following the example of those nations of antiquity from which we ourselves obtained the knowledge of local self-government, and whose edicts and laws pretty generally form to this day the basis of our own. To stir, in any way, the inert mass Chinese official neglect and obstinacy should be one of the chief objects of our Municipal authorities, and it affords an example worthy of all praise that a great advance has been made in the "outward appearance" of the streets of the Settlement—to say nothing of the imposing buildings erected on every side for the purpose of furthering trade and commerce—that cannot fail ultimately to bear fruit, even among the apparently obtuse but really sharp and far-seeing people among whom we live. Like those nations of old, to whom reference has been already made, let us do all we can to improve these lines of progress in the same amicable way that has marked the advance of the last few years, so that as time rolls on and past records are studied, it will be said that even the "barbarians" knew what things were necessary not only for the advancement of trade, but also for the furtherance of civilization and the welfare of mankind generally. That the Municipal institutions of Shanghai and the Outports will, if carried out properly, of a certainty accomplish this, is as clear as that the residents have already taught the astute natives the way to embark in, and take much from, that commerce which it was at one time thought they were incapable of understanding.

There can scarcely be but one feeling experienced throughout the community, and especially the ratepaying portion of it, at the amicable way in which the Municipal Government of the Settlement for the ensuing year was settled at the Annual General Meeting. Public matters are

working so smoothly, that—although there may be a little jerk felt now and then, like that of the wheels of a railway train catching a slightly projecting point, but passing onwards in safety—there remains little to carp at or find fault with. This satisfactory state of affairs is the natural outcome of the toils, troubles, and disputes of younger days, arising from the pardonable eagerness of the "Early Fathers" to let it be seen in later days how earnest they were in their endeavours to make the Settlement of Shanghai a monument of Western enterprise, civilization, and skill. That the task carried on from year to year, at times in the face of thoughtless opposition, both native and foreign, has been successful, we can only say in proof to any sceptic—first read the records of the early meetings of ratepayers and then, "*Circumspice!*" Still the success so conspicuously wrought must not be allowed to induce either inaction or repose. The laurels won must be kept watered, or they will fade,—a fate that would have to be deplored; and upon this especial topic we shall have something more to say on an early date. The readiness with which the Ratepayers voted the funds necessary to maintain the good government and sanitary condition of the Settlement, clearly showed how thorough is the confidence they repose in their chosen representatives; and that their confidence has never been wilfully abused by a too lavish expenditure or careless administration, is as clear as noon-day. There were two incidents at the meeting which, we think, deserve special allusion—the first of these was the graceful compliment paid by the instrumentality of Mr. C. Thorne to the Garden Committee, the honorary conservators of a Public Garden which he rightly described as "the pride of Shanghai and one of its institutions most talked of by visitors." This, by the way, was the first time the Garden Committee received a public recognition of their unobtrusive but valuable services. The other incident was the ready concession made by the Bund lot-holders to the representations of the Council, so ably enunciated by Mr. Hart, as to the necessity of removing the unsightly structures and accumulations from the Bund foreshore, and restoring that whilom breezy expanse—now virtually a nuisance—to its normal condition. There were other matters of importance to the well-being of the Settlement discussed and decided; but these two incidents stand out in relief, as showing that while the more burdensome portions of the task of local self-government are borne on strong and willing shoulders, thought is at the same time given to the pleasing task of doing all possible to beautify and embellish our surroundings. Is it too much to look forward to—to hope—that, in a few years, say—the fancy picture which is now to be seen pretty frequently on the stage of the Lyceum Theatre, will be an accomplished fact?—and that the opium hulks will some day be removed? However, these are presumably distant visions; and leaving them, we take leave of our subject, by congratulating the Ratepayers on the amity that prevails in regard to public

affairs, and by hoping that the new Council will hand over to their successors, unimpaired, the well-kept legacy they now receive.

Outports.

CHEFOO.

After a few days of extraordinarily fine weather, Chefoo has again been visited by a fierce gale and heavy sea, which caused further disasters amongst the shipping in the neighbourhood. From S.W., S. and S.E., during the preceding days, the wind settled on Thursday, the 27th ult., in the east, and during the greater part of the day and night rain fell steadily. In the early hours of the 28th, the wind took a further shift "higher up," and blew with greatly increased force from N.E.N. and N.W., the changes between these points being very frequent. This also caused a considerable change in the temperature, and everything, wet with the recent rain, was quickly covered with ice.

Between 3 and 4 o'clock a.m. the British barque *Forget-me-not* and the German s.s. *Cassandra* were driven from their anchorages and stranded, the former just at the end of Messrs. Fergusson & Co.'s jetty, and the latter a little more to the north, near the Seaman's Hall. The wind continued with unabated violence all through the day, carrying the two vessels further on shore, on the afternoon's tide, which was an exceptionally high one again.

Fortunately no further accidents to the shipping occurred, and the wind decreased gradually after nightfall.

The *Forget-me-not* was partly loaded with bean cake and peas for Amoy, and the steamer had only a small quantity of cargo, including some peas for Hongkong. Some hopes are entertained of getting the steamer off in a comparatively sound state; but the ship fills with water at high tide and has been condemned.

The sea carried away a portion of the Customs jetty and threw down the steps, also leaving some other boundary walls, high above its ordinary reach, in a very dilapidated condition.

On Saturday afternoon news was received of the wreck of the British barque *Benchutha* (with a general cargo from Shanghai), near Lung Men, and H.M.S. *Grouler* went early on Sunday morning to render assistance, but there was no hope of saving the vessel. A Naval Court is to be held to enquire into the circumstances attending the wreck; but they seem to be clearly explained as follows:—The ship was well inside Cape Cod, and unable to escape to the open sea again, when the gale caught her, and the sails, &c., becoming immovable shortly afterwards by the accumulation of ice, there was no hope but to let go the anchors, but these failed to bring her up.

Fears were entertained for the safety of the *Newchwang* Lightship, which was in company with the *Benchutha* off the Promontory, but not having made so much headway, she was enabled to get clear of land and arrived here two or three days later.

A vessel arrived a day or two ago, bringing a report of another wreck between the Promontory and this port, but though the people going to and from the *Benchutha* have tried to discover it, there is no definite news yet, and it is to be hoped the report is erroneous.

We are now enjoying fine weather again.
8th March.

NINGPO.

Octavius Johnson, Esq., of H.M.'s Consular service, assisted by two clever Lady Amateurs, gave an entertainment last night in the General Office of the Custom House, (by the kind permission of the Commissioner, E. B. Drew, Esq.,) consisting of a lecture on "English Vocal Music," with illustrations. Mr. Edmund Wheatley (by request) read the lecture that Mr. Johnson had prepared, as the singing of ten songs involved considerable labour for that gentleman. After a brief but telling speech, which contained two rather good stories, Mr. Wheatley (reading from Mr. Johnson's MS.,) pointed out that the English people are not by any means devoid of either musical taste or love for the art. The first appearance of music, as we have it now, took place in Italy in the 15th century, and it was very speedily introduced into England. The difference between the general styles of English composers and their continental brethren, was accounted for by taking into consideration the difference between the religious observances of the churches to which they respectively belonged. The songs were as follows:—

- "Friar of Orders Grey"—Ballad.
- "Come lasses and lads"—Pastoral Ballad.
- "Once I loved a maiden fair"—Sentimental.
- "Drink to me only with thine eyes"—Sentimental.
- "Hearts of Oak"—Naval.
- "The Jolly young Waterman"—Naval.
- "Tom Howline"—Naval.
- "The British Grenadiers"—Military.
- "Birds in the night"—Lullaby.
- "Muleteer's song" from "The Rose of Castile"—English operatic song.

In the course of the lecture a charming word picture was presented of an Old English Mayday; while inconstancy in love was not only shown to possess redeeming features, but in some respects to be positively meritorious, as to it we owe the composition of many good ballads. A comparison was also instituted between the old and modern styles of music, and also between the musical instruments belonging to each. A few words on "Comic" songs, and the subject of English Opera, were followed by "The Muleteer's Song" from "The Rose of Castile," which was enthusiastically encored. The songs were sung by Mr. Johnson in most effective style, and the ladies who assisted him with the accompaniments and songs respectively, did so in a most successful manner.

After a vote of thanks, the audience dispersed, delighted with the pleasant evening they had all enjoyed.

6th March.

FOOCHOW.

The *Herald* says that at the auction of Messrs. Olyphant & Co.'s Tea stock on the 21st ult., several lots of Congou are said to have been knocked down at prices considerably in excess of the original cost. Yet, the same paper hears that Foochow leaf is being sold in London at what Cockney tradesmen term an "awful sacrifice!"

Regarding the Wu-shih-shan affair there is no further reliable information. "The Feng-shui-ites" says the *Herald*, "are dark and mysterious, and the men of law equally so in regard to the coming action. But dame rumour asserts that the lawyers have full plenipotentiary powers from the provincial authorities, and that they are trying to arrange matters amicably,—of course, with a view to two main points, viz: the condonation of the act of incendiarism, and the removal of the mission premises from Wu-shih-shan. But in this, they are, we believe, doomed to disappointment. Matters have already gone too far, and the battle must be fought out on the pure merits of the case alone. By the bye, it would be interesting to know whether the heavy legal fees in this case are guaranteed by the native officials or by the trustees of the Taou Shan Kwan Temple? Our impression is that both parties

are clients; and if our surmises are correct there will not it is certain be any difficulty in obtaining witnesses to swear that black is white. Mandarinism knows how to manage these little affairs. Have we not the Fawcett case fresh in our memories?"

A destructive fire occurred on the island of Changchow, between the two bridges leading citywards, on the evening of Saturday, the 22nd ult. Cause:—*joss* *pidgin*. The flames were first noticed at about 5.45 p.m. and proceeded from a shop situated on the main thoroughfare of the island, the inmates of which had a short time before suspended a number of lighted candles in front of the family altar. These candles seem to have been placed in too close proximity to the rafters, and the consequence was soon apparent in the flames which burst forth through the roof and spread with great rapidity to the adjoining houses. Nearly all the buildings right and left of the main street were destroyed, and only a few houses in the line of fire were saved by the surrounding fire-walls. The estimated loss of property is about \$150,000.

Almanacs appear to be a Government monopoly in China. At least we are informed that the sale of these valuable publications is restricted to Yamen underlings, and that the officials are allowed to reap any profit derivable from the trade. In no other way is it possible to account for a proclamation bearing date 26th day of the 12th moon of the 4th year of Kwangsu, issued by the Min Magistrate and extensively posted throughout the City and suburbs. This proclamation forbids, under penalty of death, the publication and sale of almanacs by persons unskilled in horoscopy, and warns the people that fitting days for weddings, burials, land-purchases, and so forth can be discovered only in the almanacs prepared at Peking by the Astronomical Board. At first sight, it might appear that the Min Magistrate was taking quite a proper fatherly interest in this matter, but the fact is that the mandarins are peculiarly concerned in the sale of these officially-inspired calendars. They receive a few copies from Peking annually; some of these are printed here for general circulation and sold at the various book shops,—the officials or their underlings (it amounts to the same thing) receiving the regulation "squeeze," or a percentage of the book-sellers' receipts. It is regrettable that this superfluous paternal solicitude for the welfare of the people should not be devoted to more practical ends—sanitary reform, for instance, or a proper comprehension of the evils resulting from a malarious atmosphere, would be a fitting subject to dilate upon in the next magisterial fulmination.

The Chinese army will never become a very respectable organisation until certain sweeping reforms are made. It appears that gunners, riflemen, and swordsmen, however great their skill, can never be promoted from the ranks; whilst skill in archery secures the reward of a button as soon as ever it is manifested. Gunners, &c., if very skilful, are rewarded with presents of tobacco-pouches and such-like trifles.

AMOI.

The *Amoy Gazette* contains a brief account of a masked ball given at the Custom House at that port on the evening of the 25th ult., at which about fifty guests were present, and which turned out a success in every way. The costumes were of a most varied and amusing nature and many of them were remarkable for the originality and striking effect, those of the ladies dressed as shepherdesses, Japanese, Vivandieres, and Chinese being by far the most conspicuous. The gentlemen's costumes were so diversified that a description of them would occupy too much space, but, suffice it to say, almost every conceivable character

was represented, Chinese predominating. At midnight an excellent supper was served, after which dancing recommenced and was kept up until 4 a.m. Another correspondent of the same paper says the ball-room decorations were worthy of all praise. They were composed of evergreens hung in festoons and garlands, intermingled with artificial flowers and further enhanced by suspended mirrors and a tasteful grouping of National flags, which together with the many articles of virtu distributed in the room, so as to give the greatest effect, showed great taste and produced a most charming display. Too great credit cannot be given to the caterer for his taste in the setting of the supper table and in the selection of the viands thereon so profusely displayed, which gained the admiration of all.

The same paper notes that the new Haifang was occupied until a very early hour on the morning of the 24th ultimo, in hearing unsettled cases, the legacy of his predecessor. All litigants were permitted to address him directly, without the usual intervention of doorkeepers and runners, a notification having been previously issued to that effect. H.M.S. *Moorhen*, Commander, W. M. Carey, has arrived at Amoy from Shanghai, and is to be stationed there in place of H.M.S. *Hart*, which vessel will leave for the North on her return from Formosa.

A Chinese passenger by the *Hai Loong* states that the *Yesso* and H.M.S. *Hart* were engaged as she passed the wreck of the *Taiwan* in trying to get her off, but with very little apparent prospect of success. The *Gazette* also learns that on board the *Taiwan* at the time of the disaster were a number of students bent upon a further trial for the degree of *sin-ts'ai* at the Formosan Capital, after having been unsuccessful in their own provincial towns. There being no Chinese sons of the soil in Formosa and comparatively few candidates, this irregularity appears to be winked at by the local authorities.—The *Yesso* arrived on the 26th ultimo, with the Captain and crew of the S.S. *Taiwan*, which steamer has been abandoned. All salvaged cargo has been delivered at Taiwanfoo.—On the 27th the wreck of the *Taiwan* was sold by public auction, a Chinaman being the purchaser for \$1,800.

HONGKONG.

The *China Mail* reports that at the Hongkong Police Court, on the 7th inst., six sailors of the late barque *Kate Waters*, natives of Siam and Malacca, were charged on remand with the murder of W. F. Geese, master; Christopher Bowen, mate; and Henry Haden, second mate, of the late British barque *Kate Waters*, on the high seas, on or about the 6th November, 1878, and also with piratically taking the vessel. After taking evidence as to the identity of the prisoners as having formed part of the crew of the *Kate Waters*, and also the testimony of Peter Auguston, a native of the Mauritius, boatswain of the ill-fated barque (whose story of the murders and the scuttling of the ship, and of his own escape, is very graphic), the prisoners were further remanded.

The *China Mail* gives the following as being the prices realised for the best known ponies at the auction held after the recent Race Meeting:—*Surcingle*, \$320; *Girths*, \$280; *Temptation*, \$165; *Spurs*, \$90; *Corydon*, \$80; *Shere Nassir*, \$75; *Santa Cruz*, \$70; *Blacksmith*, \$65; *The Doctor*, \$55; *Buffalo*, \$55; *Kangaroo*, \$50.

Owing to one of the defendants in the case of mutiny and murder on board the British barque *Kate Waters*, being too ill to attend, the enquiry was further adjourned until the 1st March.

The criminal statistics of the colony of Hongkong for 1878 have just appeared in a recent number of the *Government Gazette*. These figures show a great increase in the

list of serious offences as compared with the two previous years. The figures are:—1485, 1966, and 2611 for the years 1876, 1877, and 1878 respectively.

By an inadvertence, which we regret, the *Daily Press* was credited with the authorship of a brief article on "The Rebellion in Kwangtung." It should have been the *China Mail*; and the information contained in the article being special, we hasten to make the amend.

CANTON.

The *Daily Press* correspondent says petitions have been posted in the city by the persons interested in the junks engaged in the firewood trade, calling the attention of the higher authorities to the recent illegal levy of the lekin upon firewood at the Tung-kong, Pak-kong, Sai-kong, Lo-pow, and To-sing stations, and calling upon them to take immediate steps to remove the grievance complained of. The petitioners refer to the abolition of the tax upon the article by the former Governors of Wu and An, "in consequence of which the people all loudly praise the two Governors' good administration, so that their reputation was ever heard in the wilderness." They set forth that firewood and rice are the principal support of the people, so that they cannot be done without even for a day; that the dangers of the navigation in conveying the firewood to Canton are very great, and that on arrival the wood is sold to the shops at a small profit. The present strike was caused by the grievance complained of, and in order to bring the matter to the notice of the higher authorities. As I have previously informed you, in reply to the petition, the Governor states that the allegations in the petition are true, and has ordered the abuses to be inquired into.

A notorious lottery ticket gambler was arrested in this city a few days ago by a band of soldiers under command of a military officer, who acted under special warrant. The gambler had formerly been a head runner in the prefecture of Canton, and in that position had amassed a fortune of six or seven thousand dollars, when he was banished for life for various derelictions. Two or three years ago he quietly came back to Canton and opened a gambling den. He was heard of by the Governor, however, who ordered his arrest. Finding he was securely in the hands of the law and could not escape punishment, he committed suicide in his cell by taking opium, which he had obtained by bribing the prison officials.

27th February.

The *China Mail* correspondent, writing on the 3rd instant, says the cold, wet weather continued yesterday and last night, the thermometer dropping to 50°; and though there was a fairer prospect this a.m., the barometer fell to 29°·87' this p.m., and there is rain again this evening. Altogether there has been a recurrence of electrical discharges every night or day from the 25th to the 28th, and heavy rain-falls since the 26th ultimo; corresponding apparently with your experience, excepting the hail-storm; the chill of which we felt, however.

General W. Mesny, who was at Canton on the 4th instant, but was preparing to return to his post in the interior in a few days, also writes to the same paper as follows:—

For the past few days we have had a considerable fall of rain, and the farmers have reason to be grateful to the Great Creator of all things and Giver of all good, who has thus again encouraged their labours by this seasonable rain. May the crops be good, and harvested in due season, so that the cultivator's joy may be complete, and peace and gladness reign supreme throughout the length and breadth

of this vast Empire, and want and misery be banished hence for ever.

The "City of Rams" has seen many changes during the last twenty years, and Foreign Arts and Science are gradually working their way into society, and among all classes. Kerosine lamps and oil, as well as fancy chandeliers of various descriptions and mirrors of all sizes and dimensions, are very generally used throughout the city; the use of foreign coins has entirely superseded native sycee, and schools have been established for the education of women, thus following the example of the missionary schools which have been established for that purpose, under European or Native teachers. Steam engines of all sizes and descriptions are being placed on board native built crafts of grotesque forms, and much attention appears to have been spent in that direction, as little steamers are puffing and snorting past at all hours of the day, bound on various missions, some towing junks full of native officials going to their homes in the country, and others towing junks full of foreign merchandise, or war material of some kind. The Literati acknowledge with delight many benefits derived from the advent of Europeans—the principal one, in their estimation, being their success in the carrying off by some of their number of the highest honours at the Triennial Examinations for some time past; this they attribute to the rectification of the evil influences of Fung Shui by the erection of three small Lighthouses in the River opposite the Yeo Nau-mun—and the appointment of several Cantonese as Ambassadors to Foreign Powers is another distinction they are proud of. Let us hope they will continue in this view of thinking, and may commerce revive, and the hopes of all who are interested in this matter be realised speedily, and happiness and prosperity abound to all.—W. MESNY.

MACAO.

The correspondent of the *China Mail* writes on the 7th March, as follows:—"A daring and treacherous act of piracy was perpetrated, shortly after one o'clock this morning, under the very guns of the Portuguese fort of St. Pedro, and the windows of the Government House. The particulars, as far as I can learn, in so short a space of time, are that a sampan with five ruffians, armed with revolvers and knives, boarded a fishing boat lying abreast the Praya Grande for the night, overpowered the crew, cut the cables and took the boat to a place called Ka-keang on the mainland of China, and there the pirates abandoned her, after having ransacked her of everything worth robbing. The owner of the boat was found dead on board, another man and a woman were badly wounded, and the rest of the crew kept locked under the hatches. All this occurred in about 15 minutes or less, and the plan was carried out in such a quiet and masterly manner that may defy the best police in the world to frustrate. Our launches soon brought the boat back, to their great credit, and the wounded were taken care of immediately. However annoyed our energetic Governor must be at this outrageous occurrence, what can he possibly do against the machinations of these Wing Lok Street murderers?"

NAGASAKI.

During last year, says the *Rising Sun*, we drew attention to the issue of a notification compelling junks to carry port and starboard lights when underway, but we are sorry to hear that the benefits expected and intended to result from their adoption are likely to be more than counterbalanced through the misapplication of the rules for their use. Recently we hear that it is no uncommon thing for junks at anchor to exhibit side lights, and on more than one

occasion a practised eye has been deceived by their appearance. We are convinced that those who promulgated the notification had no intention of such a misinterpretation, and the sooner junk-owners and others are set right as to its true meaning, the less will be the risk of accident and disaster.—The same paper hears that a telegram from Washington has been received by the Consul for the United States, deferring, for ninety days, the execution of the sentence passed upon James Webb in December last, for the murder of a Russian sailor at this port.—It is also said that the British and Russian Governments have solicited the President of the United States for commutation of the sentence of death to that of penal servitude for life.

HIOGO.

The Osaka Exhibition is to be opened on the 15th inst., and will remain open for one hundred days. H.E. Admiral Kawamura and the Messrs. Reed have been sight-seeing in Osaka, Sakai, and the neighbourhood since their return from the South-west. They are now in Kioto.—The *News* says—"Our supply of armed robbers has unfortunately run short this week, and there is a woeful lack of fires and the other enlivening elements which go to make up a cheerful paper. It is not our fault. Our reporter has been running round all day, without being able to pick up anything more digestible in the way of items than a Kagoshima *daikon* six *shaku* long. We shall try and do better next time."—The blow on the night of the 22nd February and the morning of the 23rd was, the *News* believes, the strongest ever experienced at this time of the year in Kobe. The damage done was fortunately not great, being confined for the most part to injury to fences and plaster-work. The Protestant Church probably suffered the most, the injuries to the roof being so serious that the building was rendered unserviceable. The usual Sunday services were conducted in the Municipal Hall, the piano belonging to the Choral Society being called into requisition in place of the harmonium. There was no damage to report in the harbour, but a vessel was for some time in jeopardy from the force of the wind, although fairly well ballasted. The crew were standing by ready to cut away the masts if necessary, but fortunately the occasion did not arise, and the ship suffered no damage.

YOKOHAMA.

From the *Herald* we learn that Yokohama was visited on the 23rd February by a severe north-west gale, which, commencing early in the morning, increased in violence until noon, after which it gradually subsided, and at sunset there was but little more than a moderate breeze. The men-of-war in harbour, with the exception of the *Monongahela*, struck top-gallant masts and yards, and several vessels got up steam. No casualty is, however, reported afloat but that of the otter-hunting schooner *Tori*, which dragged her anchors until she just touched the northern end of the English *hatoba*. Fortunately there was not very much sea on, and after some hard work she was hauled out into a place of safety, having received little or no injury. Ashore, the damage done was not extensive, although a quantity of palings have been blown down and in some cases the roofs of houses have suffered slightly.—The Mitsui Bishi Company's steamer *Taka-sago Maru* arrived from England on the 22nd February. This fine vessel was sent to London in April, 1878, with a cargo of rice, and for that purpose rigged as a four-masted sailing barque. When discharged, she sailed to Renfrew on the Clyde, at which place she was fitted as a screw steamer with a pair of Messrs. Loebnitz, Coulborn & Co.'s compound engines of 250

horse power. The high and low pressure cylinders measure 40 and 74 inches in diameter respectively, with a stroke of 4 feet, working a propeller of about 20 feet pitch, which averages about fifty revolutions per minute. She has four circular boilers, and her average rate of speed is 12½ knots. Her rig is that of a three-masted schooner, and a hurricane deck has been laid from the break of her former quarter deck, but three feet higher, which runs sheer forward. On it before the foremast is built a neat and substantial house, containing captain's cabin, wheel-house, &c., and her telegraphs for steering and engine room purposes, which are of the most approved pattern. With regard to passenger accommodation, a spacious saloon about 75 feet long by 20 feet broad contains cabins and every necessary required for 45 cabin passengers. The berths are neatly furnished, and the saloon is panelled in lattice work relieved by paintings of flowers, &c., and tastefully hung with curtains of green and gold. A small but well furnished social hall is fitted up at the deck entrance to the cabin, and contains piano, library, &c., while a roomy quarter deck affords every convenience for promenade. Her good qualities as a fast and comfortable sea boat, combined with her economy in fuel, may induce the company to run her on the Shanghai line; it is said she has been thoroughly fitted with linen, stores, &c., for that route.—On the night of the 24th February while a tidewater of the 4th class was doing duty at the French *hatoba*, he observed a Chinaman, who had landed from some ship, endeavouring to pass the gate. As the movements of the Chinaman seemed suspicious, the tidewater ordered him to stop, and on passing his hands round his waist felt some substance which he thought was opium, and demanded to see it. The Celestial protested strongly against being searched, but it was of no avail, as the tidewaiters and police soon secured him, and brought him to the Chinese Consul. It turned out that five tins of opium were found on him, weighing 2½ pounds. His name is Ah Tang, and he is a servant on board the S.S. *Malucca*.

Peking Gazettes.

ABSTRACT OF PEKING GAZETTES.

December 23rd.—(1) Decree. Several District Magistrates of Hunan are stripped of their rank, as proposed in the memorial of Shao Heng-yü.

(2) Memorial. Tso Tsung-tang, Governor-General of Shensi and Kansu, asks for the appointment of a Magistrate of an independent department.—Rescript: Let the Board of Civil Office consider and report.

(3) Memorial. Yü Lu, Governor of Anhui, reports the decision of an appeal case, referred to him from the Yamén of the General Commandant of the Gendarmerie.—In the Rescript the Board of Punishments is ordered to report.

December 24th.—(1) The District Magistrate of Ling-hsien in Shantung having beheaded 20 robbers before reporting the case, Wen Ke, Governor of Shantung, had been ordered to report. Owing to his report the Magistrate is exonerated from all guilt, but it is ordered that Magistrates should in all, even in urgent cases like the present one, first report to the Governor-General or the Governor.

(2) Memorial. Ch'ung I reports on a case of murder committed by robbers in Kirin to investigate which he had been sent.—Rescript already recorded.

(3) Postscript memorial. The same reports on several officials deputed with him to Kirin, who have now been sent to the Province of He-lung-kiang.—Rescript: Noted.

(4) Postscript memorial. Liu Kün-i, Governor-General of the Two Kwang, proposes the appointment of a District

Magistrate on account of the death of the former incumbent. Rescript: Noted.

(5) The same reports in another postscript memorial the vacancy of a prefecture and proposed appointment.—Rescript: Noted.

(6) Postscript memorial. T'sung I reports that in Kirin 176 robbers and others have been beheaded.—Rescript: Noted.

December 25th.—No documents of importance.

December 26th.—(1) Decree ordering the Provincial Treasury of Chihli to forward the amount required for the repairs of the sepulchre of a concubine of the Emperor Hien Feng.

(2) Decree ordering the Provincial Treasurer of Chihli to forward Tls. 30,000 for the Mausoleum of the late Emperor Tung Chih.

(3) Decree. As proposed by Chi Yüen the repairs of the Ta-cheng-tien shall be commenced in 2nd and 3rd month of the next year.

(4) Rescript concerning the appointment of a Deputy Supervisor of Instruction.

(5) Memorial. Mei Chi-chao, Governor of Chehkiang, prays for permission to be granted to a man to repair a second time to the Luh Ming banquet.—Rescript already recorded.

(6) Memorial. Wu Yüen-ping, Governor of Kiangsu, prays that time be allowed for forwarding a portion of the silks and satins for the Emperor, owing to the want of funds.—Rescript: Granted, let the Board of Revenue take note.

(7) Memorial. The same reports the death of the Provincial Director of Education and requests a speedy appointment.—Rescript already recorded.

(8) Postscript memorial. The same praises the late Provincial Director of Education, Lin T'ien-ling.—Rescript: Noted.

(9) Postscript memorial. Ting Pao-cheng, Governor-General of Szechwan, reports having left the capital on a tour of inspection, the Provincial Treasurer acting during his absence.—Rescript: Noted.

December 27th.—(1) Memorial. Ting Pao-cheng, Governor-General of Szechwan, reports the decision of a case of a man having murdered his elder brother.—Rescript: Let the Board of Punishments immediately report.

(2) In a postscript memorial Wu Yüen-ping, Governor of Kiangsu, reports a case of suicide committed by a wife on account of her husband's death. He prays that an arch be erected to her memory.—Rescript: Granted, let the Board of Ceremonies take note.

(3) Postscript memorial. Ting Pao-cheng, Governor-General of Szechwan, requests that a District Magistrate be stripped of his rank for having employed an underling known to be a bad character.—Rescript: Granted, let the proper Board take note.

(4) The same recommends a man to the Imperial favor for having subscribed Tls. 1,000 to the Shansi Famine Relief Fund, and prays that an Imperial Tablet with the usual inscription be granted.—Rescript: Granted, let the proper Board take note.

(5) Postscript memorial. Tso Tsung-tang asks that a major, a second captain, and a lieutenant be stripped of their rank for having embezzled public monies.—Rescript: Granted, let the proper Board take note.

December 28th.—(1) Memorial. Yung Lu reports want of funds for the necessary repairs to the Imperial roads at the time of the obsequies of the late Emperor, and prays that the Governor-General of the Two Kwang be ordered to remit Tls. 40,000.—Rescript already recorded.

(2) Postscript memorial. Mu Tü-shan reports the increasing robberies committed outside of the Great Wall and recommends that all robbers be beheaded as soon as apprehended and their heads be publicly exhibited.—Rescript: Noted.

(3) The same asks in a postscript memorial for permission to engage twelve runners at Tls. 3 each per month, as owing to the unusually large number of criminal cases, the present number of runners is found insufficient.—Rescript: Let the proper Board take note.

(4) Memorial. Ou-yang Si-chien, Brigade-General of Huai-yang-chen, Kiangsu, reports his arrival at his post and having taken over the seals of his office.—Rescript: Noted.

(5) Memorial. Yang Chung-ya, Governor of Kwangsi, recommends that Yang Tzu-chi, who was stripped of his rank, be appointed to his original rank of colonel, for having captured a band of sworn banditti.—Rescript already recorded.

December 29th.—(1) Memorial. The Censor Tuan Fu-chang complains that appeal cases referred back to a Provincial Judge have of late been given into the hands of Prefects to be decided. He requests that the Judges be ordered to investigate such cases themselves.—Rescript already recorded.

(2) Postscript memorial. Ting Pao-cheng, Governor-General of Szechwan, reports that the Literary Chancellor, T'an Tsung-chin subscribed Tls. 1,200 towards the Famine Fund without asking for a reward.—Rescript: Let him be rewarded according to the regulations, and let the proper Board take note.

(3) Memorial. Liu Kün-i, Governor-General of the Two Kwang, and Chang Chao-tung, Governor of Kwantung, forward their decision of a case of murder; a man having killed two of his relatives is sentenced to be beheaded.—Rescript: Let the Board of Punishments immediately report.

(4) Postscript memorial. Tu Jui-lien, Governor of Yunnan, reports that owing to the rebellion, a great want of books was felt in his province. He therefore sent an officer to Hupeh to purchase books and has established a bookstore in the provincial capital.—Rescript: Noted.

December 30th.—(1) Decree. With regard to the sluice at Fan-k'ou in Hupeh, about which a great deal of correspondence has been published, it is decided that the Governor of Hupeh shall report, as the views of Teng Yü-lin and Li Han-chang are at variance.

(2) Memorial. Wang Hsin, Supervising Censor of the Board of Ceremonies, prays that the high authorities of Shansi be ordered to report all officials who exerted themselves in connection with the Famine Relief work.—Rescript already recorded.

(3) The same exposes in a postscript memorial the horrible practice of infanticide now common in Shansi, and prays that the Governor of that province be directed to issue strict orders forbidding it.—Rescript already recorded.

(4) Memorial. Tseng Kwo-ch'üen, Governor of Shansi, reports that a good deal of salt is now in the province and that a further issue of salt tickets to dealers should be delayed.—Rescript: Let the Board of Revenue consider and report.

[The rest of this day's *Gazette* is occupied with postscript memorials on official changes.]

December 31st.—(1) Decree. The province of Kwangtung is allowed to add one name to the number of *chü-jen* heretofore fixed.

(2) Decree. Li C'heng-mou, whose term of retirement on account of mourning is completed, again takes his post of Commander-in-chief of the Yangtze naval forces.

(3) Decree. The proper Board shall report on the officials who distinguished themselves in connection with the grain transport to Peking.

(4) Memorial. Tsai Ling, Imperial Clansman, in charge of the affairs of the Board of Works, requests that the Governor-General of the Two Kiang be ordered to forward the coir materials with which he is

in arrear, and which are urgently required for the obsequies of the late Emperor.—Rescript already recorded.

(5) Postscript memorial. The same states that for the decoration of the T'ai-miao, 6,400 pieces of gold leaf are required, and prays that the Governor of Kiangsu be ordered to supply them.—Rescript already recorded.

(6) Memorial. Tseng Kwo-ch'üen, Governor of Shansi, recommends a District Magistrate for appointment, as he has proved himself efficient during his term of trial at the capital.—Rescript: Let the Board of Civil Office take note.

(7) The same recommends in a postscript memorial, the Taotai Sung Chin to be promoted to the second rank for having distinguished himself in the distribution of 80,600 piculs of rice during the famine.—Rescript already recorded.

(8) Memorial. Tu Jui-lien, Governor of Yunnan, states that the province is infested by numberless banditti and that already a good many cases have been decided.—Rescript: Noted.

Public Meetings.

ANNUAL MEETING OF RATEPAYERS.

The annual general meeting of Ratepayers for the Settlements North of the Yangking-pang, was held Monday, in the Board Room of the Municipal Council, Kiangse road. The following are the names of those who were present, with the number of votes represented:—

Allen, C. F. R....	1	Little, Dr. L. S....	1
Artindale, R. H. 19		Little, R. W.....	3
Bailey, D. H.....	1	Love, J.	2
Bell, F. H.....	8	Low, E. G.....	2
Bell-Irving, J.	11	Mackenzie, Robert	3
Blethen, C. P. ...	4	Macleod, N.	1
Brand, D.	3	Morris, H. S.....	1
Brown, R. C.....	5	Moses, S. M.....	4
Buchanan, J.....	16	Myburgh, A.	18
Dowdall, C.....	1	Nelson, Rev. R....	1
Dyce, C. M.	2	Purdon, J. G.....	3
Evans, H.	2	Reynolds, E. A....	1
Forbes, F. B.	10	Sassoon, M. E....	3
Haden, G. W.....	1	Skeels, H. J.....	1
Hart, J.	3	Spring, E. H.....	3
Howie, W.	2	Such, H. J.....	1
Hübbe, P. G.....	2	Thorne, C.	1
Jamieson, Dr. R. A.	1	Welch, J.....	1
Jones, Douglas ...	1	Wheley, E.	9
Kingsmill, T. W..	3	Withers, Geo.....	3
Lavers, E. H. ...	4		

Total—161 Votes.

Mr. HART moved, and Mr. E. G. Low seconded—

Resolution I.—That Mr. Allen take the chair.

Mr. HART—Is there any objection to that?

The motion was carried with acclamation.

Mr. ALLEN having taken his seat as Chairman of the meeting, read the notice convening the same, as advertised in the *N.-C. Daily News*.

Mr. LAYERS moved, and Mr. HUBBE seconded—

Resolution II.—That Mr. J. A. Pond act as Secretary to the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN—Does anyone object to that?

The motion was carried unanimously.

Mr. HART next moved—

Resolution III.—That certain Rules of Procedure, which will be submitted at the forthcoming meeting, be adopted for use at the meeting, and remain in force until the next annual general meeting.

The Rules were as follows:—

Rules of Procedure to be observed at Public Meetings of Ratepayers convened under the provisions of the Land Regulations 1870.

1.—Every Ratepayer attending a Meeting shall, before entering the Meeting room, register his name and the number of proxies

for absent Landowners held by him, and each voter when so registering shall receive a ticket certifying the number of votes to which he is entitled.

2.—When a Public Meeting of Ratepayers shall have been assembled, a Chairman of the Meeting shall be elected by the Ratepayers present.

3.—After the Chair has been taken, the Meeting shall proceed to the election of a Secretary.

4.—The Chairman shall then read the notice convening the Meeting, and the business of the Meeting shall be proceeded with in the order mentioned in the notice.

5.—No proposition or question shall be admitted for consideration at a Meeting unless it arises directly out of any subject actually under discussion, and which has been mentioned in the notice convening the Meeting; or unless a written memorandum of such proposition or question shall have been lodged with the Secretary of the Council three days before the date for which the Meeting has been convened. In the latter case a copy of such memorandum shall be published by the Council in the *North-China Daily News* on the days before and of the Meeting.

6.—Every resolution or amendment must be in writing, and signed by the mover and seconder, before it can be put from the Chair; and no subject shall be considered as duly before the Meeting unless it be put from the Chair.

7.—The mode of procedure with regard to amendments shall be as follows:—Any number of amendments to a resolution may be moved and seconded, after which the Chairman shall put the question for and against, beginning with the amendment last proposed, until some one of the amendments be carried or all be rejected. The rejection of any amendment shall not import the passing of any preceding one, but each amendment shall then in its turn be put to the Meeting. In the event of all the amendments being rejected, the original resolution shall then be put.

8.—Upon a division being called for, the Secretary shall read the list of Ratepayers registered at the Meeting, and each voter present shall as his name is read declare whether he votes in the affirmative or negative, and the number of votes which he casts. When the number of votes on each side are equal, the Chairman shall have a second or casting vote. The result of the division shall be declared by the Chairman, whose decision shall be final unless a scrutiny shall be at once called for.

9.—If a scrutiny be called for, the Chairman shall appoint as scrutineers two Ratepayers who shall have voted on opposite sides of the question. Such scrutineers shall proceed with the scrutiny forthwith, and the result shall be declared by the Chairman before the dissolution of the Meeting.

10.—No reference shall be allowed to any subject or business already disposed of, except by consent of a majority of the Ratepayers present or represented at a Meeting. A resolution once passed can only be rescinded or modified by a majority of not less than three-fourths of the voters present or represented.

11.—All documents which come before a Ratepayers' Meeting, shall if they have been previously exhibited for three clear days (exclusive of holidays) at the Council Room, be accepted as read, unless specially requested to be read at the Meeting.

12.—Each speaker shall address himself to the Chair. As a rule, except it be in explanation of the subject under discussion, or final reply, Ratepayers shall address the Meeting but once on each subject. Any departure from this rule to be permitted only at the discretion of the Chairman.

13.—On all questions of order the decision of the Chairman shall be final, unless overruled by three-fourths of the voters present or represented.

14.—No business shall be proceeded with at any Meeting convened under the provisions of Article XV of the Land Regulations 1870 until the Chairman shall have declared that the requisite number of Ratepayers are present or represented and that their votes have been duly registered.

Mr. ARTINDALE seconded.

The CHAIRMAN then submitted the motion to the meeting, and it was carried *nem. con.*

Mr. HART next moved—

Resolution IV.—That the Report and Accounts for the twelve months ended 31st December, 1878, be passed.

He said in bringing the affairs of the Settlement for the past year to the notice of the Ratepayers, he would remark that the Council's estimate of revenue for 1878 was Tls. 240,517.70. They actually received Tls. 268,629.98; but from this must be deducted a loan of Tls. 24,000 for the new Police-station at Hongkew, and the premia on debentures issued in 1875 of Tls. 2,359.75, making altogether Tls. 26,359.75, showing an increase on the estimate of Tls. 1,753 in round numbers. The chief features of the increase in our revenue of last year were these:—We obtained a slight increase of Tls. 538.88 on pawnshops, and also an increase of Tls. 707.98 on jirikshas. The interest increased by Tls. 2,159.75, which must be mainly ascribed to the premium on the debentures for Tls. 24,000 issued, which had passed into the accounts. There was also an increase of Tls. 5,577.71 from outstanding accounts of 1875, 1876, and 1877, which will be seen in detail on reference to the 96th page of the Report. The first item is Tls. 2,308.93 on the closing account. The rates, dues, &c., outstanding on the 31st December, 1877, were estimated at Tls. 7,237.36, but they amounted to Tls. 9,546.29, which gives the amount of Tls. 2,308.93. The outstanding bills, &c., on the 31st December, 1877, were estimated and placed to the expenditure of that year in the amount of Tls. 7,360.00, and we have already been called upon to pay during the year, Tls. 6,572.83, showing an increase of Tls. 787.17. In the outstanding accounts of 1876, there was an amount of Tls. 614 for the extension of the Seward road; but owing to the uncertainty of getting the proposed improvement accepted, we withdrew it from the accounts. In a similar way, in the outstanding accounts for 1875, we had an amount of Tls. 1,867.61 set apart for the extension of Markham road, but owing to the very great uncertainty there was of the Council being able to carry this improvement through, that amount was also withdrawn from the accounts. The total amount, therefore, of outstanding accounts withdrawn is shown to amount to Tls. 5,577.71. The chief increase over our estimates may be noticed in the roads. We put down in our estimate for 1878, Tls. 39,500.00, whereas the actual expenditure was Tls. 50,147.36, an increase of Tls. 10,647.36. Of the amount we spent on the roads in 1878 we used Tls. 17,543 actually in buying strips of land for the widening of the roads, and I am sure that all the Ratepayers will agree that the money was well spent. Of this sum of Tls. 17,543 we had only provided for Tls. 8,000, which was our original estimate, so that we spent Tls. 9,543 more than our estimate, and this we obtained from revenue. We found it was not necessary to take advantage of the sum of Tls. 10,000 which the Ratepayers voted at the last meeting for the purpose of widening the roads, as we were able to defray the extra expense from other sources, which I am sure must be considered very satisfactory. In the Fire Department there is an increase you will observe of Tls. 850, which arose in consequence of the very defective state of the hose. The gentlemen connected with the Fire Department thought it expedient to at once replace the hose, and they applied to us for the sum of Tls. 850, which they had not drawn from the amount set down for their department in 1877. The Council considered it wise to accede to their request; in fact the money had been actually voted to the Fire Department, and the Council believed it was really necessary for the effective service of the fire brigades that the money should be spent. It will be seen also that there is an increase in the Municipal stock and stores to the amount of Tls. 2,946.94, which is chiefly owing

to the supply of a quantity of disinfectants for cleansing the Settlement, and stores used for drainage purposes. On the item of Land and Building there is an increase of Tls. 25,185.36, but that, as you are aware, was in acquiring the site for the new Hongkew Police Station, the particulars in connection with which are tabulated on the 97th page of the Report. You will there find that the purchase of the land as a site for the new Police Station amounted to Tls. 5,000; cost of raising the land, Tls. 177.90; paid on account of contract for building Police Station, cells, &c., Tls. 6,000; balance of contract, outstanding, 31st December, 1878, Tls. 13,412.00; building a shed for storing tools, &c., Tls. 100; enlarging Powder Magazine, Tls. 200.17; building new Blacksmith's shop on land adjoining the Central Police Station and cost of internal fittings, Tls. 995.29; making a total under this head of Tls. 25,885.36. In our expenditure it will be seen that there is a decrease in the pay of the Police of Tls. 1,916.28; and that there is also a decrease in the Nuisance and Market Branch of the service of Tls. 1,669.22. There is also a decrease of Tls. 1,273.09 on the amount set apart for bridges, and further there has been a decrease in the Stud Department of Tls. 1,366.67. I do not think there are any other items in the accounts to which I need allude. They are plainly set out in the Report, and may, I think, be considered very satisfactory, especially for 1878, and with these observations I beg to submit the resolution I have already read for your acceptance.

Mr. HUBBE seconded.

The CHAIRMAN again read the motion to the meeting, and in the absence of any amendments or questions by the Ratepayers he submitted it to the vote, and it was carried *nem. con.*

Mr. HART next moved—

Resolution V.—That the Tariff of Dues leviable on Merchandise imported or exported at the port of Shanghai, which came into force on 1st June, 1871, and the rules now appended thereto, be in force until the next Annual General Meeting.

There is nothing new, gentlemen, in this motion. The rules are exactly the same as those that have been in force for a number of years; therefore I do not think it is necessary for me to say anything further in reference to them. He then read as follows:—

Tariff of Dues, leviable upon Merchandise imported to, and exported or transhipped from, the port of Shanghai; framed by the Council for the Foreign Community of Shanghai, on the basis authorized by the Land Regulations of 1870.

This scale of charges has been revised and approved of, by the Shanghai General Chamber of Commerce.

The Tariff comes into force on and from the first of January, 1879.

1.—The Accounts will be kept and made up in the room at the Custom House appropriated by the Commissioner of Customs for that purpose.

2.—The Accounts will be rendered monthly, together with a debit note to all persons liable to pay the same, and the amount specified in such debit note must be paid within fourteen days thereafter. Objections on the ground of incorrectness or otherwise must be made within seven days from the date of receipt of the debit note.

3.—*Ad valorem* dues will be levied on the value declared at the Custom House upon all articles not enumerated in this Tariff.

4.—Goods transhipped will be subject to these dues where particulars are given on the permits, but when particulars are not so given, a rate not exceeding one mace per package will be charged.

5.—Dues shall not be levied on the transshipment or exportation of goods that have already paid dues on importation, but goods that have been imported and passed through the Custom House by Chinese shall pay Dues on being re-exported to foreign ports.

Mr. WITHERS seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

Mr. HART—The next resolution, gentlemen, is as follows:—

Resolution VI.—That this Meeting, in pursuance and execution of the powers vested in it by the Shanghai Land Regulations of 1870, imposes and authorizes the Council for the Foreign Community of Shanghai, North of the Yang-king-pang, to levy, collect and recover upon and from all persons liable to pay the same, the following taxes, rates, dues and fees for the current year:—

Land Tax at the rate of 3/10ths of 1 per cent. on the assessed value (as assessed in 1875-1876), from the renters of land registered at the various Consulates at Shanghai—half-yearly in advance, on and after the 1st days of January and June respectively.

General Municipal Rate of 6 per cent. on the assessed rentals of houses inhabited by Foreigners, from the occupants, quarterly in advance, on and after the 1st days of January, April, July, and October respectively.

Dues on all Goods passed through the Chinese Custom House by any person or persons resident within the said limits, or landed or shipped at any place within the said limits, monthly, according to the Tariff and the Rules appended thereto passed at this Meeting, provided the said dues shall in no case exceed the amount of one-tenth of one per cent. on the value of the goods so passed, landed or shipped.

All such taxes, rates, and dues, being payable at the time specified, and to be paid within fourteen days of presentation of tax note.

Native Rates and Dues.

Land Tax at the rate of 3/10ths of one per cent. on the assessed value of land, from Chinese owners or renters of land, half-yearly in advance—on and after the 1st days of January and June respectively.

General Municipal Rate of 8 per cent. on native rentals, from Chinese residents, monthly or quarterly as may appear advisable on and after 1st January.

License Fees.

For every House of Public Entertainment, Hotel and Tavern, Shop or Store, for sale of Wines, Spirits, Beer, Intoxicating Drugs, Butcher's Meat, Poultry or Game—according to class of Establishment, from \$6 to \$200 annually, payable in advance.

For every Music Hall,	According to class of Establishment, from 10 Mexican cents to \$5 for every night open, payable in advance.
" " Theatre,	
" " Circus,	

For every Billiard and Bowling Saloon, for every night open, computed at the rate of \$3 per quarter for each Billiard Table or Bowling Alley, payable in advance.

For every Dancing Saloon, according to class of Establishment, for every night open, from 25 Mexican cents to \$5, payable in advance.

For every Pawnshop, according to class.

For every Horse, Pony, Mule or Donkey, let for hire from Livery Stables, 50 Mex. cts.,

For every Four-Wheeled Carriage, let for hire from Livery Stables, \$1.25.

For every Four-Wheeled Carriage, plying for hire in the Streets of the Settlements, \$2.50.

For every Two-Wheeled Carriage, plying for hire in the Streets of the Settlements, \$1.50.

For every Two-Wheeled Carriage, let for hire from Livery Stables, 75 Mex. cts.

For every Jirik-sha, let for hire, \$1.

For every Wheelbarrow, let for hire, 400 cash.

For every Native Water Cart, \$1.

For every Cargo Boat, carrying capacity under 50 Mex cent; 20 tons—

Over 20 tons—and up to 100 tons—

For every Native Boat, according to class,—100 to 600 cash.

For every Sampan, at one Dollar each for two months, payable in advance.

For every Permit to erect Sun-shade over public thoroughfare—in case of foreigners, one mace per lineal foot; in the case of Chinese, two Mexican Dollars each house; in both cases payable in advance.

per month, payable in advance.

For every Permit to construct or repair connection with Municipal Drains—Tls. 3 each, payable in advance.

Telegraph and Telephone Fees—Tael One Hundred (Tls. 100) per line per annum, in advance.

Cemetery { Vault, ...Tls. 10.00 }
Fees, { Grave space, „ 2.25 } in advance.

Local Post Office Subscriptions—Tls. 30 per annum, in advance.

Mr. HART—In moving this resolution, gentlemen, I merely wish to remark that the Council suggest the following alterations in the charges as compared with those of 1878, viz., Licensing Fees, for every two-wheeled carriage let for hire from livery stables we have increased the fee from 20 Mexican cents to 75 cents; for every four-wheeled carriage let for hire from livery stables from 50 Mexican cents to \$1.25; for every two-wheeled carriage, plying for hire in the streets of the Settlements, from 75 cents to \$1.50; for every four-wheeled carriage plying for hire in the streets of the Settlements, from 1.50 to \$2.50; on jinrikshas, let for hire, we have raised the fee from 50 cents to \$1. There are, as you are aware, a number of native water carts in the Settlement, and for these we have fixed the fee at \$1. There are, I may say, 45 of these vehicles using the roads of the Settlements. They are chiefly employed by tea-shops, and the Council have found that they do a great amount of injury to the roads by the way in which the water splashes from them; and we have ascertained they can well afford to pay a fee of \$1 per month for the damage they do the streets. As regards the increased fee on the carriages, the matter has been very carefully enquired into. In the first place, I may mention we have fixed the fees exactly on the same footing as those which prevail in the French Settlement; and from the increased number of carriages and from what we know of their owners and the earnings of their carriages, they are well able to pay the amount we have asked. As to jinrikshas, there are about 1,600 employed in the Settlements, and we have ascertained that they can well afford to pay a fee of \$1 per month each.

Mr. E. G. Low seconded the motion.

Mr. KINGSMILL—There is nothing in the resolution about wheelbarrows.

Mr. HART—I think you will find there is, and that there is a charge of 400 cash on each barrow. I have only been commenting on the alterations the Council propose to make.

Mr. KINGSMILL expressed himself satisfied with the reply given.

The CHAIRMAN then submitted the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

Mr. HART—The next resolution, gentlemen, is—

Resolution VII.—That the Estimated Expenditure in the Municipal Budget for the year commenced 1st January, 1879, and ending 31st December, 1879, as proposed by the retiring Council for the Foreign Community of Shanghai, together with the recommendations attached thereto, be approved and adopted.

Mr. HART proceeded—Our estimate of revenue for 1879 is Tls. 234,715.99. In this amount, however, you will observe, there is included the sum of Tls. 10,000 withdrawn from the Sinking Fund and applied towards the reduction of the Municipal Loan of 1872. Our revenue for 1878 was Tls. 268,629.98, but you will bear in mind that, in that amount was included the loan of Tls. 24,000 for the new Police Station in Hongkew, and further, the premia we obtained on that loan of Tls. 2,359.75; so that really the revenue we propose is as nearly as possible about the same as last year. The sum we recommended for expenditure is Tls. 234,715.99, being an increase on last year's Budget of Tls. 5,351.08. In the expenditure, you will find that we put down for Police, Tls. 47,654.50. Last year we actually spent a little over Tls. 46,000, and the probability

is that that sum will not be exceeded this year. For sanitary matters, we have put down a little over Tls. 19,600. The amount we spent last year was Tls. 18,526.72; so that our estimate exceeds that amount by about Tls. 473. We set apart Tls. 15,000 for lighting, and the amount last year was Tls. 14,255.51. The expenses of the Surveyor's Office are put down for the year 1879 at Tls. 8,503, as against Tls. 8,255.60 in the last year. It will thus be seen that in this item there is a small increase, which is owing to the fact that our principal Surveyor has obtained nine months' leave of absence, and the gentleman employed to conduct his work receives a salary at the rate of Tls. 2,400 per annum for his services. Mr. Clarke receives Tls. 3,600, but during his absence he only receives half-pay, so that there is a small increase, the difference being between Tls. 3,600 and Tls. 2,400. For Public Works, we set apart Tls. 49,260; we spent last year, Tls. 69,258.05. Last year, we spent Tls. 17,000 for widening the streets. This year it is not anticipated that very much money will be required for that purpose. At the present moment, there are only two streets in the knowledge of the Council that can be widened, or rather, in the course of being widened, viz., the rounding of the Foochow road corner and the very great improvement the Council are effecting in the Hankow road. We have obtained from Messrs. Maitland and Thorne, the privilege of having a sidewalk or arcade along the extent of their buildings in the Hankow road. By doing this, the present pathway can be thrown into the road, thereby increasing its width. At the present moment, however, there is a little difficulty about the entrance near the new Chartered Mercantile Bank, but I suspect that it will be eventually arranged satisfactorily. Regarding the roads of the Settlement, I think they appear to the Ratepayers generally to be at present in good condition, more especially the Nanking road, which is in excellent condition. In the Secretariat, you will see a slight increase—an increase of about Tls. 600, which is owing to the fact that one of our employés is on leave receiving half-pay, and his place is supplied by another gentleman. Regarding the general charges, there is little difference—the difference is so small that I need not refer to it. The only other item of expenditure I desire to call your particular attention to is the increased amount set apart for the Volunteers. In 1878, the amount spent on the Volunteers was Tls. 2,850, and for this year we have put down the sum of Tls. 4,000. It will be fresh in all your recollections the discussion that has been going on for some time past regarding the Volunteer Corps and the necessity of providing uniform for its members. The Council, in answer to a letter from the amalgamated Company, No. 1 Miih-lo-loongs, respecting the question of uniform, said they would set apart a sum sufficient to provide uniform for the Volunteers, and leave it to the Ratepayers to sanction the payment, and this matter, gentlemen, now comes before you. I may mention that in the sum of Tls. 4,000 there is an amount of Tls. 1,000 which is to go towards defraying the expenses of the Public Band, which has been organised for Shanghai; the understanding, of course, being that on any occasion when the Volunteers appear in public, the services of the band will be at their disposal; on such occasion, for instance, as that of a march-out towards the Race-course or through the streets of the Settlement, or on any other occasion when the Volunteers may require their services. A Public Band was wanted in Shanghai, and the Council did not think it was out of their province to defray a part of the necessary expenses. (Applause.) I have much pleasure in proposing the resolution I have already read to you.

Mr. MACKENZIE seconded.

The CHAIRMAN—Has any gentleman any amendment to propose or question to ask in reference to the motion now before the meeting?

Mr. F. B. FORBES said—Mr. Chairman, with your permission, I beg to propose that the sum of Tls. 250, which is put down in the Budget as a contribution to the Shanghai Museum, may be increased to Tls. 500. The Museum is now a valuable institution, growing in interest and importance, and the collection of specimens has become so large that the North-China Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society is about applying to H.M. Government, I am given to understand, for more land in order to build an addition thereto. The specimens are now actually suffering by being overcrowded; and I think under the circumstances the community might contribute a little more liberally towards the support of this growing and useful institution. I therefore propose as an amendment—

That the contribution to the Shanghai Museum be increased from Tls. 250 to Tls. 500.

Mr. R. W. LITTLE said—I have much pleasure in seconding the amendment just proposed. There is no doubt that good work has been done with the small amount the Council has contributed towards the Museum, and if the amount is increased as Mr. Forbes proposes, the money will, I am sure, be well laid out.

The CHAIRMAN then submitted Mr. Forbes's amendment to the vote, and it was unanimously carried.

Dr. JAMESON drew attention to the inefficiency of the working of the present Lock Hospital system in Shanghai, which evoked a long discussion as to whether the sum set apart by the Council for the maintenance thereof should be continued, culminating in an amendment, moved by Mr. PURDON and seconded by Mr. E. A. REYNOLDS, against its continuance as at present applied.

Mr. HART supported the action of the Council, and Mr. KINGSMILL that of the opponents.

The amendment was lost by a unanimous negative vote, and the proposition of the Council affirmed.

[The discussion will be found fully reported in the Minutes of the Meeting, as usually printed in pamphlet form.]

Mr. KINGSMILL asked whether the Council had any objection to state if there were any probability of further measures being taken with regard to outlying roads? The Seward road scheme seemed to have been discarded altogether in the present Budget. Two years ago it was proposed to make a road from Miller's Bungalow on the Soochow Creek to meet the Jessfield road, which would have been a very agreeable drive. Complications arose which he could not at the time understand, but indications were given that the Council would ultimately get the matter carried through. He failed to find anything in the Budget referring to these proposed roads, but he thought the Chairman of the Council would have no objection to state whether it was proposed to take any action with regard to them.

Mr. HART replied that the question of outlying roads had received the closest attention of the Council during the past year. They had done everything in their power to carry out the roads mentioned by Mr. Kingsmill; but had been opposed so strenuously by the Chinese authorities, and probably by the highest authority in the province, that it was utterly useless for the Council to think that anything could be done. The Consul-General, who is one of the best men in his position we ever had, has aided us greatly; and Mr. Seward, when he was here, thought he had carried the scheme through, but it was thrown out by the native officials, and the Council had been advised by the Consul that the better plan was to remain quiet for a month or two.

Mr. KINGSMILL said one of the two roads was within Municipal limits, and that a vote of the Ratepayers, under the Land Regulations, as to the necessity of the road being made, would overthrow any frivolous objection.

Mr. HART.—Can you, Mr. Kingsmill, compel a Chinaman to sell his land? That is the point on which we are met. If you know of any means to compel a Chinaman to sell his land, I am sure the Council would only be too glad to avail themselves of it. The question remains there, and you understand it as well as I do.

The CHAIRMAN then submitted the original motion as proposed by Mr. Hart and seconded by Mr. Mackenzie, which was unanimously carried, subject to Mr. Forbes's amendment in reference to the Museum.

Mr. PURDON said—Before the next resolution is brought forward, I wish to propose a vote of thanks to the retiring Council. By passing the Budget, their official duties have ended, and the present is the proper time, perhaps, to thank them for their services. I think they deserve the thanks of the community for the way in which they have conducted the affairs of the Settlement during the past year, and I most sincerely beg to propose—

Resolution VIII.—That the thanks of the Meeting be given to the retiring Council.

Mr. DOUGLAS JONES—I have much pleasure in seconding the proposition.

The motion was carried with acclamation.

Mr. HART—On behalf of myself and colleagues I thank you most sincerely for your kind expression of feeling in reference to our duties during the past year, and I also thank you for the very great aid you have afforded us in passing the Budget we have already placed before you.

Mr. C. THORNE—While on the subject of thanks, I wish to mention that there is one place in our midst from which we derive a great deal of pleasure. I mean the Public Garden, which is the pride of the community, and I notice that the works of the Garden Committee seem to be ignored. They do a great deal of good and useful work in the Public Garden, which, as I have said, is the pride of Shanghai, and one of the institutions of the Settlement most talked of by visitors. I have, therefore, pleasure in proposing—

Resolution IX.—That the thanks of the Ratepayers be given to the Garden Committee for their very careful attention to the Public Garden, and the gratification their labours afford to the public at large.

Mr. KINGSMILL—I have great pleasure in seconding this motion, and can testify to the nice manner in which the Gardens are kept, and to the great benefit they are to the residents.

The motion having been put by the Chairman, was carried unanimously.

Mr. HART—The next resolution, gentlemen, I have to propose, is as follows:—

Resolution X.—That this Meeting, under Article IX of the Land Regulations of 1870, authorizes the Council for the time being to raise (if necessary) a sum not exceeding Tls. 10,000 S. S. by Debentures redeemable in not less than five, and not more than twenty years from date of issue, and bearing interest at the rate of not over 8% per annum, for the purpose of widening the Streets of the Settlement.

In proposing the motion, Mr. Hart went on to say that the retiring Council had thought proper to bring it forward, inasmuch as an opportunity might be afforded during the year of buying land for widening the streets to the extent of Tls. 10,000, and, without it, they might probably not be able to meet the increased expenditure. At the present moment, however, there did not appear to be much chance of further opportunities of widening the thoroughfares. The Foochow road improvement was already provided for, and therefore the only amount required was Tls. 3,000 for the Hankow road. The resolution was looked upon as a formal one, and within his recollection it had been passed during the

last three years without any objection being raised to it.

Mr. FORBES—Are we to understand that the sum of Tls. 3,000 is to be taken out of the debentures, or is the motion only to give the Council this in addition?

Mr. HART—It is only to give the Council a chance to raise money in the event of opportunities offering to buy land to widen the streets.

Mr. E. G. LOW seconded.

The CHAIRMAN submitted the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

Mr. HART said—The next resolution is as follows:—

Resolution XI.—That this Meeting under Article IX of the Land Regulations of 1870, hereby authorizes the Council for the time being to raise (if necessary), a sum not exceeding Tls. 10,000 S. S. by Debentures redeemable in not less than five, and not more than twenty years from date of issue, and bearing interest at the rate of not over 8% per annum, for the purpose of completing the New Hongkew Police Station.

Mr. Hart went on to say that the works to be done at the Hongkew Police Station were the erection of residences for the Inspectors of Roads and Nuisances, at a cost of Tls. 3,600; a bell-tower, Tls. 700; a godown, Tls. 750; stable, etc., Tls. 750; extras on the contract of Tls. 500; mud filling in and fixing, Tls. 1,450. The amount of Tls. 7,500 includes the residences of the Inspectors of Roads and Nuisances. An allowance has previously been made to the Inspectors for rent; but now the Council had deemed it advisable to build houses for them instead of continuing that allowance. In asking for the Tls. 10,000, it was not to be concluded that the whole amount would be necessary—the Council may only issue debentures for Tls. 7,000 perhaps, if they should find that that amount would be sufficient to carry the building through.

Mr. E. H. LAVERS seconded, and the motion was passed.

Mr. HART said—The next resolution, gentlemen, is—

Resolution XII.—That after the 31st day of May next, no permission shall be given by the Council to any person or persons to erect Sheds or Store Building or other material upon the foreshore of the Bund, and all unexpired permits shall then be withdrawn or cancelled, and all Sheds and Materials shall be removed from the said foreshore.

In introducing this resolution, I would briefly remark that I think every Ratepayer present must agree with me that the state of the foreshore of the Bund is perfectly scandalous. (Applause.) And in order to remedy this serious blot on the Settlement, the Council, after due consideration, have deemed it advisable to bring forward such a resolution as this. I may mention that it is not the intention of the Council to raise the question of the ownership of the foreshore; the Council, in looking at the whole question, merely say the foreshore is a portion of the Settlement. It is not necessary for me to say, or for the Council to say, who that foreshore belongs to. To people who have been resident here a great many years, the question has been very often raised. One man says it is his, and another says it is his, and the bigger power behind says it is his. But apart from that the Council do not raise that point,—they say it is a portion of our Settlement, and that at the present time it is in a disgraceful state and must be cleansed. There is no doubt that the Bund lot holders may say it belongs to them. I shall not say it does not. The Council does not wish to say it does not. The only power they wish to ascertain, and it is a power which it may be said they already possess, being a body having charge of the conservancy of the Settlement, they merely wish to point out that the foreshore, being part of the Settlement, must be kept clean. We have heard a great deal of discussion from time to time

about the opium hulks, and what an eyesore they were and are alongside the Bund. Looking at the opium hulks and looking at these sheds, how many complaints are made about them. Look at the sheds now! You can hardly walk along the new pathway of our Bund. The smells are of the worst character. None of us are favourable to the odours emitted from Chinese cookery, and, as one passes along, cooking is going on in each of these sheds for a number of men, and I think from 150 to 350 men are fed daily in them. You can understand the refuse that is thrown from these places—you can understand the smells emitted. There is no power to keep the sheds clean. We cannot do it, and if you go immediately behind, between the sheds and the river, you will find a series of latrines which are perfectly filthy. What will be the condition of the Settlement as summer approaches and during the hot season if these places are allowed to remain? The stench will be intolerable, and the health of the Settlement will suffer considerably. (Applause.) With regard to the convenience it is to the Bund lot-holders to erect sheds there, I think it is imaginary more or less. A few days ago, I discussed the question with Mr. Groom, who, as you know, is an architect, and making alterations at present to some buildings of Messrs. Russell & Co. on the Bund; and he says it is not of the smallest consequence the sheds being erected there. It is more a convenience to the contractors, who immediately settle a colony there, and the work done is not confined to that necessary for houses facing the Bund, but for buildings in other parts of the Settlement. So far as doors and windows are concerned, they might be made at Pootung, and the stones faced hundreds of miles away. The sight of the foreshore is a disgrace, that would not be allowed to prevail in any other part of the Settlement, and why should we allow it here? You have entrusted a certain number of men as guardians to look after your interests and keep your Settlement clean. Why, then, should they not keep the foreshore clean and so take care of the health of the Settlement? I have been in conversation with the Superintendent of Police, and in a report he has prepared on the subject, which I now hold in my hand, he gives a very fair account of what takes place in these sheds daily. One portion of this report I will read.—[The report described the latrines as being very offensive, and that the longer the sheds remained, the danger to health would become greater, for there were no means of cleansing the latrines.]—When you take, gentlemen, these facts into consideration, you can fully understand what a disgraceful state these places are in. Before sitting down, I would again remind the Ratepayers who may probably object to this measure, that it is only introduced by the Council as a means of preventing what would create illness or sickness. It is a proceeding on the part of the Council which has nothing to do with the right of ownership of the foreshore. The only thing is the Council recognise it as a portion of the Settlement. I might mention also that in 1871, the Council passed a motion in reference to the foreshore; and in conclusion, I have only to add that if you do not keep the foreshore clean, the consequences will be terrific. (Loud applause.)

Mr. F. B. FORBES—It is very satisfactory to hear from the gentleman who has just sat down that this resolution is not in any way to prejudice the rights that exist of Bund lot-holders; but I may point out that the resolution as it stands, does, in an indirect way, open the whole question of ownership of the foreshore. Here, in this resolution is a direct instruction to the Council from the Ratepayers to move all sheds and material from that foreshore, by or on a certain date. This is not the proper place to go into the legal aspects of

the question, and there are many important legal questions involved. I think there are Bund lot-holders who feel themselves in absolute right of ownership of their foreshore, and who in defence of their own interests probably would resist the execution of any such resolution as a trespass. I say, here is a direction to the Council to exercise a right of ownership over a property to which they, at the best, have a very doubtful claim. The question is, whether we leave the resolution in that shape? To do so would perhaps leave the Council in a very awkward position, and I think a very slight amendment to the resolution will suffice, and I shall propose it. It will be to add the words—

Provided that nothing in this resolution shall be construed to prejudice the existing right of the Bund lot-holders.

I think everybody will agree with Mr. Hart that the present state of the Bund is not what it ought to be, that there is a great quantity of filth, nastiness, and obstruction under those sheds, which ought to be removed. But I think all that it is necessary for the Council to do is to regulate the foreshore. It is not necessary to say that everything should be cleared off it, because sheds might be erected there and things stored advantageously and without any danger to the health of the community. It seems to me that these sheds are erected for the convenience of preparing materials for new buildings on the Bund, from which the Ratepayers are going to derive a large amount of revenue. So that we ought not to put unnecessary obstacles in the way of making these desirable improvements. All that it is necessary to do can be done by regulation; and not by the sweeping measure that everything should be cleared off. A resolution like this was passed before, and it was found inoperative. It was the one mentioned by Mr. Hart, and I am afraid this resolution would be again inoperative. I beg to move an amendment, to add, after the last word, "foreshore," in this resolution, "provided that nothing in this resolution shall be construed to prejudice the existing rights of the Bund lot-holders."

Mr. F. H. BELL seconded the amendment.

The Rev. Dr. NELSON thought that the date for the removal of the sheds on the foreshore, viz., the 31st of May, was too far ahead. It brought them into warm weather, and from the statements which had been made, it ought to be considered whether the condition of the foreshore was not such as might cause epidemic or fever during the ensuing summer. It appeared to him that the motion conferred no rights beyond what were perfectly understood. It asserted no new right, and took away no rights that had hitherto existed; and he hoped it would be passed without any trouble or opposition. The nuisance, if not abated, might generate fever, and he could hardly understand how the foreshore had been allowed to get into its present state. He had known it now for some 27 or 28 years, and it had never before been in its present condition.

The CHAIRMAN asked Dr. Nelson if it was his intention to move an amendment in reference to the date in the motion?

Dr. NELSON said he would do so if it was necessary.

Mr. KINGSMILL said within his own experience of native contractors, material had been prepared in the sheds on the foreshore for buildings miles away; and therefore in the interests of the Bund lot holders the thing was considered nuisance, and they would agree with the Ratepayers that it was improper that the work should be done there.

Mr. E. G. Low said it seemed to him from the view he held about the rights of the Bund lot holders, that no resolution passed at the meeting could really affect their rights in any way. There was no doubt the Bund lot holders conceived that they had

certain rights, and if they chose to assert them, the matter would come before some court of law, and be there decided. All the present resolution meant was a strong request to the community to enforce what seemed to be a necessary sanitary regulation. It could not interfere with the existing rights. It only instructed the Council to put an end to certain eye-sores and nuisances in the Settlement.

The CHAIRMAN again enquired of Dr. Nelson whether he was going to propose an amendment?

Dr. NELSON said he now understood that contracts were in existence which would probably extend to the 31st of May, and therefore it was not his intention to propose an amendment.

Mr. HART—I may say that the amendment proposed by Mr. Forbes is accepted by the Council. We have inserted the words "if any" after the words "prejudice to existing rights."

Mr. FORBES approved of the insertion of those words, and

The CHAIRMAN then put the motion as amended, and it was carried unanimously.

Mr. FORBES enquired if the Council did not think the breaking of granite chips, which was going on nearly all day on the Bund, was not also a great nuisance?

Mr. HART—Yes; that may be considered a nuisance also.

Mr. FORBES—I should say it was a great nuisance, and ought to be stopped.

Mr. HART—There now only remains one more motion for me to lay before you, and that is the election of four Trustees for the management of the General Hospital for the ensuing year. Only four names have been laid before you, and therefore it is hardly necessary to take a vote. I beg to propose—

Resolution XIII.—That Messrs. J. Bell-Irving, J. H. Hart, E. H. Lavers, and W. S. Wetmore, be chosen to serve on the Board of Trustees of the General Hospital for the ensuing year.

Mr. FORBES seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

Mr. HART.—Before we separate, gentlemen, I beg to propose—

Resolution XIV.—That a cordial vote of thanks be given to the Chairman for the able manner in which he has conducted the business of the meeting.

We have had a very pleasant meeting, matters have been dealt with very satisfactorily, and we have been ably assisted by our Chairman in carrying them through. I think everyone will be pleased that the question of cleansing the foreshore has been so amicably passed, and that it will be in the interest not only of the Ratepayers generally, but also of the Bund lot-holders.

Mr. E. G. Low—I have great pleasure in seconding the vote of thanks to our Chairman.

The vote was carried by acclamation, and The CHAIRMAN having briefly acknowledged the compliment,

The meeting separated.

CHINA COAST STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY.

The annual general meeting of Shareholders in the above Company was held Tuesday at the offices of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson and Co., Mr. F. B. Johnson, presided; and there were present:—Messrs. A. J. How, F. G. White, and J. Wilson, (Directors); H. J. Skeels, Tong Mow-chee, J. Harding, H. Munster Schultz, J. Jaques, J. Buchanan, C. S. Sharp, R. P. Hunter, B. A. Clarke, J. Bell-Irving, A. Thurburn, T. Preston, S. A. Nathan, and C. Rivington; representing over 3,500 shares.

The meeting having been formally constituted, and the notice convening it read,

The CHAIRMAN rose and said—I have no doubt, gentlemen, you will allow me to consider the report, which has been circulated, to be taken as read. In presenting

it to the meeting, the Directors have the satisfaction to believe it is a fairly favourable one. In the early part of the year we had the misfortune to lose the steamer *Haining*, and it was unfortunate to the Company in two ways, inasmuch as it deprived us of the services of a boat when we had the prospect before us of an active season for freights; and when a steamer is lost at the beginning of a season we have to pay her insurance up to the end of the year. However, the two new boats recently added to the fleet arrived out in time to take part in the work before the season closed, and their earnings contributed to swell the Profit and Loss Account of the Company. In regard to these two boats, I may say, before proceeding further, that the Directors will be pleased to answer any questions in reference to them. The *Shun Lee* was, as you are aware, ordered before the last annual general meeting; and she was ordered on two grounds. First, it was thought advisable that we should have a spare boat for the Company's service; and, second, that we should have one as perfectly adapted as we could make her for the requirements of the Northern line, and I think the *Shun Lee* in that way has fulfilled the anticipations we held of her. The only fault is that she is too high cost, but when we come to build a steamer adapted for special purposes, we are, to a large extent, in the hands of the builder. We obtained plans and specifications from three eminent ship builders, and we accepted, I believe, the lowest tender, considering the work which was to be performed. Since the vessel arrived here, she has proved to be in every respect well fitted for the particular trade in which she is engaged, and I think it is beyond a doubt that she is the finest vessel on the line. Her passenger accommodation, both for foreigners and natives, is excellent, and the arrangement of her internal fittings do great credit to Captain Bolton who made the design. Her draught of water is not so small as we had hoped it would be, but it is sufficiently good. The *El Dorado* was got by the Company for some of the reasons which induced us to construct the *Shun Lee*. After the loss of the *Haining*, we considered, as I have just said, that we ought to have a spare boat, and the *El Dorado* was offered to us at a price which was exceptionally favourable; and if we had constructed her she could not have been built better adapted for the service. The only thing is she wants better native passenger accommodation, which can be put into her at any time; but even without this she has proved herself a valuable addition to the Company's fleet. The Directors have had the question of dividends under their careful consideration. We have considered the meagreness of the dividends the Shareholders received when the affairs of the Company were in a less prosperous condition, and we thought the Shareholders ought now to have the advantages of a good year's workings, but at the same time we also felt that there is an imperative necessity to make provision for the future. In regard to the Profit and Loss Account, the Directors, within the last two years, have made an alteration in the mode of adjusting it in yearly periods. The steamers at the end of each season, as everybody knows, become liable to certain heavy repairs, and in December they come under this obligation. In the early period of the Company's career, we used to make this obligation a charge upon the following year's account and hence we commenced the new season, on the 1st March, with a very heavy indebtedness, which used to take us frequently to the autumn to wipe off. This was not considered a satisfactory state of affairs, and at the last annual general meeting the Shareholders agreed with the Directors to set aside a portion of the earnings to meet these claims. This year we have recommended to the Shareholders to put the

matter entirely straight by making the cost of repairs incurred and contingent at the close of each year a first charge upon the net earnings of the steamers for that year. In fact, by the Deed of Settlement I believe we are compelled to do so. In addition to the obligation for heavy repairs, the steamers became responsible for portage bills and insurance for two months while laid up, so actually on the 1st March we begin with an indebtedness of something close upon Tls. 50,000. I am sure you will at once see that it is not prudent to allow so heavy a charge as that to be put on the earnings of the year, and even with such obligations before us, modified as they now are, we should not have felt justified in recommending the large dividend we do, unless the prospects of the freight season at the opening had been fairly good. With these observations, gentlemen, I beg to move the formal resolution in reference to the accounts, viz.—

That the Report and Accounts of the Company for the year ended 31st December, 1878, as printed and circulated, be accepted and passed.

Mr. How—I have much pleasure in seconding the resolution.

REPORT.

The Directors have now to submit to the Shareholders a statement of the Company's accounts for the twelve months ended the 31st December last.

The earnings of the Company have been satisfactory. The steamers are all in an efficient state of repair for the work of the current year, but the *Taku* will require new boilers and extensive alterations at the end of the present season.

After crediting the Reserve Fund and Underwriting Account with Interest, the Profit and Loss Account shows a credit balance of Tls. 104,587.54 including Tls. 11,979.42, carried forward from last year, and the Directors propose to appropriate:—

Towards the estimated cost of repairs incurred and contingent 31st December, 1878, Tls. 24,587.54
To cover estimated depreciation of steamer property... 35,000.00
Leaving a balance of... 45,000.00
which, in accordance with the provisions of the Deed of Settlement, is available for distribution among the Shareholders, or otherwise, as may be decided at the Annual General Meeting. The Directors recommend that a dividend of 9% be declared.

The Directors have to regret the loss of the Company's steamer *Haining* on the 13th April last, but they are pleased to state that they have been able to replace her by a much larger and more serviceable vessel, the *El Dorado*, purchased in London under exceptionally favourable circumstances.

The *El Dorado*, as well as the *Shun Lee*, recently constructed for the Company by Messrs. Wm. Denny & Brothers, of Dumbarton, arrived in time to take part in the closing operations of last season, and the two boats prove to be valuable additions to the Company's fleet.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1878.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

Dr.		Tls.
To Balance of Interest Account.....	3,284.77	
" Balance of Charges Account.....	2,015.22	
" Directors' and Auditors' Fees.....	1,752.90	
" Loss on <i>s.s. Haining</i> —being difference between her value in Steamer Property Account and amount recovered from the Underwriters and Company's Insurance Fund.....	4,449.52	
" Balance, subject to cost of repairs incurred and contingent 31st December, 1878, estimated at Tls. 25,000.00.....	11,561.51	
Shanghai Tls.....	116,149.05	
Cr.		Tls.
By balance of Profit and Loss, 1877.....	11,979.42	
" Net Gain on Working of Steamers for one year to date.....	102,251.70	
" Gain on Ships Stores Account.....	853.19	
" Gain on Exchange Account.....	1,064.74	
Shanghai Tls.....	116,149.05	

BALANCE SHEET.		Tls.
Liabilities.		
Capital Account.....	500,000.00	
Reserve Fund.....	70,249.82	
Underwriting Account.....	14,518.78	
Sundry Creditors.....	70,709.19	
Balance of Profit and Loss.....	104,587.54	
Shanghai Tls.....	760,355.33	
Assets.		Tls.
Steamer Property—six steamers.....	615,716.18	
Cash in hands of the General Agents and in Hongkong and Shanghai Bank.....	61,450.80	
Freight outstanding and balances due by Agents at Outports.....	20,264.28	
Sundry Debtors (including unpaid balance of purchase money of the Steamer <i>Conquest</i>).....	58,907.29	
Unexpired Premium of Insurance.....	3,719.78	
Ships Stores.....	300.00	
Shanghai Tls.....	760,355.33	

JARDINE, MATHESON & Co.
General Agents, C.C.S.N. Co.

Shanghai, 24th February, 1879.

The CHAIRMAN—If the Shareholders have any questions to ask I shall be glad to answer them.

Mr. JAKES—I wish to ask, in reference to the accounts, whether the estimated cost of repairs on the 31st December, 1878, of Tls. 24,587, is correct—or whether it is likely to be under or over that amount. I presume the amount is known by this time.

The CHAIRMAN—I can tell you exactly. The cost of the repairs to the six steamers was Tls. 23,203, but in addition to that there will be the sum the Company will have to pay for the stranding expenses of the *Shun Lee*, which will bring up the amount to rather over than under the Tls. 25,000.

Mr. JAKES then inquired to what purposes was the Reserve Fund to be ultimately applied?

The CHAIRMAN said he would answer that question by referring Mr. JAKES to the Deed of Settlement, from which he read a clause stipulating that a Reserve Fund should be raised, and that it was to be devoted to meet the general liabilities of the Company.

Mr. JAKES next asked whether it was customary in Companies of this kind that one year's earnings should bear the additional cost of two steamers?

The CHAIRMAN—In what way would you propose to pay for them?

Mr. JAKES—There must be other ways of doing it—raising additional capital by the issue of debentures, or spreading the payment over a number of years.

The CHAIRMAN—Do you think we could invest our money—the Reserve Fund—in a better way?

Mr. JAKES—That is it. What is the Reserve Fund for? Has the money come out of it for the new steamers?

The CHAIRMAN thought a brief analysis of the accounts would show that the new steamer had been mainly built out of the Reserve Fund and the Insurance Fund.

Mr. JAKES wished to know the amount of the Reserve Fund.

The CHAIRMAN said it was Tls. 70,000 and the Insurance Fund was Tls. 15,000; and the remaining cost of the steamer had been paid out of the cash assets of the Company.

No further questions were asked, and the Chairman then submitted the motion for the adoption of the Report and Accounts to the Meeting, and it was unanimously passed.

Mr. BUCHANAN next proposed—

That the Directors be authorised to pay a dividend for 1878 at the rate of Taels 9 per share.

Mr. JAKES seconded, and the motion was unanimously carried.

Mr. S. A. NATHAN proposed, and Mr. H. J. SKEELS seconded—

That Messrs. F. G. White, J. Wilson, and A. J. How, be elected Directors for the current year, in conjunction with the senior representative of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co. in Shanghai.

Carried unanimously.

Mr. B. A. CLARKE proposed, and Mr. J. JAKES seconded—

That Messrs. C. Rivington and E. Gipperich be elected auditors for the current year.

The motion was passed unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN said this concluded the business before the meeting.

Mr. JAKES said he would like to know from the Directors whether there was any prospect of an interim dividend being paid during the coming year.

The CHAIRMAN replied that that was a matter which entirely depended on the support the steamers of the Company received.

Mr. JAKES asked that if there was a balance to the credit of the Working Account, in the middle of the summer, whether the Directors would be prepared to divide a reasonable amount of the available funds in dividends to the Shareholders.

The CHAIRMAN, in reply, said he could assure Mr. JAKES that the Directors were as anxious as the Shareholders to have dividends, and an interim dividend would no doubt be paid if there were sufficient available funds in hand and the interests of the Company would permit it.

Mr. JAKES then moved a vote of thanks to the Chairman for presiding, and the meeting terminated.

THE CHINA FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

(Daily Press.)

The tenth ordinary meeting of the shareholders in the above Company was held at the offices, Queen's-road, on the 24th ult. There were present:—Hon. H. Lowcock (chairman), Hon. P. Ryrie, Messrs. H. Hoppius, W. H. Forbes, A. McIver, G. Sharp, A. McConachie, A. André, W. Reimers, A. E. Vaucher, J. A. Barretto, E. George, C. F. Nunn, R. Deacon, J. H. Cox, A. Newton, A. Smith, D. R. F. Crawford, W. Wilson, W. Wotton, and J. B. Coughtrie (secretary.)

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, in offering you the usual report and statement of accounts, although I cannot hope you will consider it quite as brilliant as usual, I would propose at the same time, you will allow me to consider it as read, as you have had it in your hands for some time. But, although our losses have been so large, I hope you will consider the report satisfactory. Our working account will show that our office has done a larger business than usual, while our interest account also shows a handsome profit. Under these circumstances, I think, considering the enormous losses we have had to pay this year, the report may be considered satisfactory, and the shareholders may be congratulated on the position of the office. Unless any gentleman has any questions to ask or observations to offer, I would propose that the report be adopted and the accounts passed.

REPORT.

Report presented to the shareholders at the tenth Ordinary Meeting, held on Monday, the 24th February:—

The Directors have now the pleasure to present a Statement of the Company's Accounts made up to the 31st December, 1878.

1877.	
The Balance at the credit of Working Account, 1877, as per last report was....	\$145,719.72
From this has to be deducted the Dividend, voted by the Meeting of 16th February, 1878, at \$12 per Share on 4,000 Shares....	48,000.00
	\$97,719.72
The Losses and claims accruing to 1877, but paid in 1878, amount to.....	9,309.25
Balance.....	\$88,410.47

The customary Bonus of 10 per cent. to contributing Shareholders will absorb \$25,000 12, leaving a surplus of profit of \$62,507.35, which in view of the unusually heavy losses incurred in 1878, the Directors propose to early forward to that year.

1878.

The earnings of this year show the very satisfactory increase of \$15,810 over the previous one, but unfortunately the losses have been numerous and large, amounting in the aggregate to \$123,000, inclusive of \$66,000 lost by the Great Fire of the 25/26th December, nearly the whole of which amount

was paid after the annexed accounts were closed.

The Balance at Credit on the 31st December was \$101,847.11, and adding the amount brought forward from 1877 this is increased to \$164,354.46, out of which the Directors propose to pay the usual Dividend of \$12 per Share.

Directors.—Messrs. Ryrie and Forbes retire from the Board in accordance with the Articles of Association, and offer themselves for re-election.

Mr. A. Lind having left the Colony, Mr. A. McIver has been elected to fill the vacancy caused by his resignation, and this appointment will require confirmation.

Auditors.—Mr. C. Morland Kerr being absent, the Board elected Mr. D. A. J. Crombie to act as Auditor. This gentleman and Mr. James H. Cox offer themselves for re-election.

HENRY LOWCOCK, *Chairman.*

Mr. ANDRE—May I ask you how much you consider the unexpired risks on the 31st December, 1878, amount to?

The CHAIRMAN—No estimate has been made of that at present, but it shall be made out and sent to you.

Mr. ANDRE—According to my calculation it will be \$50,000 or \$60,000 and as the amount carried forward is \$164,000, if you deduct from that the losses, \$66,000, and the dividend, \$48,000, and also the twenty per cent. premium you have to give, you will have about \$140,000 so that there will remain \$24,000.

The CHAIRMAN—Yes, \$24,000, which we hope to be able to carry forward, when the account is closed, to the reserve fund. When the matter was considered by the board, we thought \$24,000 would be ample to meet the outstandings.

Mr. ANDRE—I would like to ask another question. Shortly after the severe calamity which fell on our Colony at Christmas, it was thought advisable by some of the Companies to draw up a circular declining to grant insurances on goods in Chinese-built houses. The Secretary of this Company signed that circular, but about a week afterwards his signature was withdrawn by order of the Directors. I have no doubt the Secretary in signing it thought it a very wise step, calculated to protect life and property in this colony, and certainly the document does not tend to throw the slightest blame on the respectable Chinese community—(Hear, hear.) It was only drawn up under the opinion that it is impossible for a European Company, managed by Europeans, to make such a close investigation as is necessary in case of calamity. I would be glad to know for what reasons you have withdrawn the signature of the Secretary. I cannot think he would sign such an important document without the sanction of the Directors. At the same time I would be glad to know if this Company intends taking risks on merchandise and valuables in these houses.

The CHAIRMAN—In reply to the question just put, I may say that a few days before the circular was signed, the letter the gentleman refers to was placed before the Board, when it received the consideration that of course it merited. Although approving generally of it, there was one clause in particular—I really forget the exact tenor of it—which the Board considered inadvisable, and on that account the Secretary was requested not to sign the circular. It appears that in a few days it came round in a different form, and the Secretary, thinking the Board would have signed the circular had it come originally in the shape it then did, signed it without further reference. At the following meeting the Directors did not wish to join in the circular, although approving generally of the principle—this Company never having accepted any risks on Chinese property stored in Chinese-built houses—but although that was the case, no such risks ever having been accepted, they did not think it desirable to bind themselves under no circumstances to take such risks.

Therefore, they requested their signature should be withdrawn, the document having been signed under a misapprehension by the Secretary. Under ordinary circumstances we should at all times decline to take such risks, as they are not risks we care for.

Mr. ANDRE—I am much obliged to you, and am fully satisfied.

The CHAIRMAN then proposed the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. DEACON seconded.

Carried.

On the motion of Mr. HOPKINS, seconded by Mr. ANDRE, Messrs. Ryrie and Forbes, the retiring Directors, were re-elected.

Hon. P. RYRIE—Gentlemen, as you are probably aware, Mr. Lind, who is on this Board, has been compelled to leave on account of his health, and Mr. McIver having returned to the Colony, the Board invited him to take the seat he formerly held. This requires the confirmation of this meeting. I therefore propose that the appointment of Mr. McIver to the Board be confirmed.

Mr. VAUCHER seconded.

Carried.

On the motion of Mr. FORBES, seconded by Mr. BAIKETTO, Messrs. D.A.J. Crombie and J. H. Cox were re-elected auditors.

Mr. SHARP—Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, before you separate, may I venture, with an apology for reiterating previously expressed opinions, to say a few words on the subject of fires. There is so much ground, good ground, for congratulation in the position of this Company and the older Company, and the great ameliorations these companies provide against the calamity of fire, not to refer to the zealous and self-denying efforts of those who are employed in extinguishing fires, there is altogether so much cause for congratulation surrounding us that I feel there is a danger of the calamity under which we are now suffering being lost sight of. The position of the Company is good. The owners of property are happy, for, the Chinese having seen the red light (or sign of good luck) over the properties which have been consumed, they attach an enhanced value to them, and in many cases the ground on which the houses stood is worth as much after the fire as it was before. All these things tend to diminish the affliction from which we are suffering, and gentlemen in this room, with the exception of a slight recession in the value of the stock, have suffered nothing from the fire. Some of us have been very large gainers by it. Some gentlemen are very busy in restoring properties. Then, who are the sufferers? I think, Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, the sufferers are the Chinese. I know of very many cases where I have found shops full of idle workmen. I have said "What is the matter; nothing doing?" The reply has been—"No got shop sellum that thing; no man wanchee makee." All these people, they have not gone away from their shops and settled in other shops in the immediate neighbourhood. Since the fire, shops standing vacant before are not filled. The people have simply gone away. They have gone away to Macao, to Canton. The industries, which were to a great degree the life of this Colony, are paralysed, if not destroyed, and I am sure any gentleman who takes the pains to analyse the thing will agree with me. How then is this to be prevented for the future? I think we must adopt other means, some more expensive means; there must be money spent to render Hongkong more secure from fire. Were I a larger shareholder in the Company I might take a different view, but those who are least interested sometimes take the fairest views, and I think it would tend to an easy, facile, gathering of a fund were there a duty imposed by the Government on fire insurance. You are aware the duty at home is 1s. 6d. per £100, something like 1½ per mil upon the sum insured.

Taking the insurance in Hongkong—there are a great number of short policies, so that we may take the insurance rate at about 1½ per cent. all round; thus charging 2½ per cent. on the premia received would amount to a little less than ½ per mil upon the sum insured, less than half of the English rate, and it would produce—taking the sum insured at \$350,000 for the two local offices, and adding perhaps half as much for the twenty-seven home companies—\$13,000. Adding the ½ per cent. for the rates levied with the police rates, which would produce another \$8,000, this would give a total of \$21,000, or say approximately altogether a fund available of \$20,000 per annum for the support of the Fire Brigade and the Fire Master's salary, and all expenses connected with it. That would be found, I believe, sufficient. It will naturally be replied by the Companies, we are keeping up brigades and expensive engines. Then I would propose that these engines and private brigades be merged in the Governmental Brigade, that the engines be handed over, and the fire master appointed by the Government take the whole control and direction of the matter. This would distribute the burden. It would not fall at all heavily. It would be a mere bagatelle. The 2½ per cent. would be nothing coming out of the profits of the Company, and it would embrace all the business done by home or outside offices. The German offices are doing a large amount of business, and also the English offices. They would then all come in for their share in the cost of the extinction of fires. I think any gentleman who will say the extinction of fires is not part of the duties of an insurance agency is not speaking correctly. I believe unless insurance companies made diligent efforts to extinguish fires no society could survive. I know some have declared "we have nothing to do with the extinction of fires, but confine ourselves to the payment of losses." Then I think they are wrong, because the extinction of fires forms one of, if not the primary duty of an insurance company. I put these one or two thoughts before the meeting that they may be made the subject of conversation before any Government movement is made. The action of the Government will be guided by public opinion, and it is important we should have an opportunity of discussing these matters. I will venture, in conclusion, to move the resolution which I moved last year and the year before, and which was on both occasions moved also in the office of the Hongkong Fire Insurance Company—"That the directors be requested to confer with the Board of the Hongkong Fire Insurance Company and the local Government with a view to the provision of further means of preventing and extinguishing fires."

The CHAIRMAN—Gentlemen, although you will agree with a great deal that has fallen from the gentleman who has just spoken, I don't think this is quite the place to bring forward a motion of that kind. I am aware of the necessity of some alteration and change being made in our fire brigade, but the matter is receiving, as you all know, the attention of the Legislature, and I may mention that the two local companies have arranged to get out another engine of much greater power than any of the present engines, and to urge on the Home offices the desirability of their assisting in bearing the expenses of these engines. With reference to the Government levying any tax on insurance, I don't think that would be at all a desirable way of making any change that may be thought necessary, in fact, the Government is powerless to levy any tax. It has been tried in Canada, and the Government found they could not compel the agency of the Queen Insurance Society to pay any tax. 2½ per cent. on the premium taken at the ports where we maintain steam fire engines would cost us less than the sum we now pay. Although quite agreeing with much that has been

Mr. McEWEN proposed and Mr. DEACON seconded, "That the remuneration to the Auditors be \$150 each."

Carried unanimously.

Mr. EMORY proposed and Mr. CHATER seconded, "That the present Consulting Committee, consisting of Messrs. W. Reiners, A. P. McEwen, C. D. Bottomley, T. Jackson, and J. H. dos Remedios, be re-elected."

Carried unanimously.

Dr. ADAMS proposed and Mr. VAUCHER seconded, "That Messrs. A. Coxon and H. Smith be re-elected Auditors."

Carried unanimously.

Mr. BOTTOMLEY proposed and Mr. COXON seconded, "That the usual remuneration to the gentleman who filled the office of Secretary be voted."

The CHAIRMAN, in putting the motion to the meeting, said he was pleased to express his own personal acknowledgements to Mr. Alford for his great services and great attention to the interests of the Company.

Carried unanimously.

The SECRETARY expressed his thanks to the shareholders for their vote, and to Mr. Keswick for his remarks.

The CHAIRMAN—The dividend warrants will be issued immediately. I should be glad to hear any remarks which any shareholders present may be disposed to make with regard to the business of the Company. There is one matter which I almost omitted to mention, that is, that it will be desirable to call an extraordinary meeting of the Company with the view to making some alterations in the Articles of Association, by which the net profits of the Company may be somewhat differently divided to what they are at present. It is proposed that in order to meet such a contingency as that of the losses which were shown last year, and that the contributors of business may still receive that return on their contributions which they have been in the habit of receiving, to make some alterations, and with that view an extraordinary general meeting will be called shortly. In making provision for such allowances to contributors of business the interests of shareholders will of course be considered. In is a most important matter that in any change which may be made that the great principle of maintaining our Reserve Fund should not be lost sight of. That Reserve Fund is our great strength—a strength of which this Company ought to be proud, and any change made should not in any way interfere with the principles which the Articles of Association have hitherto enabled us to follow, and to create that which is our strength. It is important that contributors of business should receive their returns, while, at the same time, the interests of the shareholders will not be overlooked. The meeting will take place in a few weeks, and due notice of it will be sent round to the shareholders.

The proceedings then terminated.

MASONRY IN SHANGHAI.

THE ROYAL SUSSEX LODGE, No. 501,
ENGLISH CONSTITUTION.

The annual installation of W.M. of the Royal Sussex Lodge took place on the 28th January, 1879. There were about 67 brethren present. The Lodge was opened at 9.15 o'clock p.m. by Wor. Bro. EVANS. Shortly afterwards the R.W.D.G.M. of Northern China and his officers were announced, and received in the Lodge with Masonic honours.

The W.M. thereupon rose and said—R.W.D.G. MASTER, on my own behalf and that of the Royal Sussex Lodge permit me to offer you and the officers of the D.G. Lodge the right hand of fellowship, and cordially welcome you amongst us. Knowing, as we all do, R.W. Sir, the great interest you take in all that tends to the benefit and advancement of freemasonry,

we cannot but feel highly gratified at your presence here this evening, it being a further proof, if any were needed, of the great anxiety you feel for the welfare and prosperity of the craft. On such an occasion as the present, that of the installation of our W.M., we feel especially pleased and grateful to you and for your kindness in consenting to perform the ceremony of installation; and particularly would we thank you for the sympathy you have constantly and invariably shown the Royal Sussex Lodge in its adversity as well as in its prosperity. R.W. Sir, in now surrendering into your hands this gavel, which has been the symbol of my authority for the past two years, I do so expressing a sincere wish and a fervent hope that in the future our Lodge may become more prosperous than it has been in the immediate past.

The R.W.D.G.M., in replying, said—Worshipful Bro. EVANS, although I never visit your Lodge without being received with every mark of fraternal regard, I was quite unprepared for the very flattering reception which has been so spontaneously accorded to me by you and the brethren assembled. I have always taken great interest in everything pertaining to the craft, feeling assured that when our principles are faithfully disseminated much good must result therefrom, and this Lodge has materially assisted in promulgating those principles. The Royal Sussex Lodge, although not the first established in Shanghai, is the oldest in China. It was removed to this Port under the auspices of the R.W. Bro. Samuel Rawson, Past Provincial Grand Master in China, one of its former Masters, who was ever foremost in promoting the welfare of his Brethren when with us, and who continues in the good work now that he resides in his native country. We rarely take up *The Freemason* or *The Freemasons' Chronicle* without finding his name mentioned therein, associated with work calculated to prove beneficial to the craft. The first Master of this Lodge in Shanghai was R.W. Bro. H. G. Murray, the immediate Past District Grand Master for China, who will be remembered by most of you for his zeal in freemasonry, and whose name is cherished with regard. Many worthy brethren have filled the chair since then, and you, W. Sir, have so gained the affection of the members that on three occasions have you been elected to the high position, and the brethren have again testified their approval of your services by their endeavour to retain you as their head for another year, but which, by the rules of our constitution, they are unable to do. I must not detain the Lodge by further remarks now, but I will request you to retain the gavel until the commencement of the installation ceremony, when I shall have pleasure in receiving it from your hands, and of installing our W. Bro. JOHNSFORD into the position to which he has been elected to occupy.

After the Lodge had been opened in the second degree, the R.W.D.G.M. took the chair, and officiated as installing master. Brother JOHNSFORD was presented as W.M. elect, and was duly installed, after which the following officers were also invested:—Bro. E. P. Lalcaca, S.W.; Bro. S. Ballard, J.W. and Treasurer; Bro. U. W. Harris, Secretary; Bro. T. Ford, S.D.; Bro. J. Howell, J.D.; Bro. C. T. P. Hudson, I.G.; Bro. J. B. Browne, Organist; Bro. T. W. Harrocks, Steward; Bro. T. Roberts, Steward; Bro. T. Hore, Tyler.

W. Brother EVANS, P.M., then rose and said—R.W.D.G. Master, Officers of the D.G. Lodge and visiting Brethren, to you R.W. Sir and the Officers of the D.G. Lodge, on my own behalf and that of the Royal Sussex Lodge, I return my sincere thanks for your presence, and for the great assistance you have rendered us throughout the ceremony of installation. More especially R.W. Sir to you are our thanks due for the very eloquent and impressive manner in which you have conducted this ceremony. It

affords me intense gratification, and I am sure it does the members of our Lodge to see so large a gathering of the brethren here to-night, and as we have on this, our first meeting in the New-year, so many present, I think it augurs well for the future, and I sincerely hope that a period of revival in freemasonry is about to set in.

The R.W.D.G.M., replied—Worshipful Sirs, I am sure I am only expressing the feelings of the District Grand Officers' when I say that they have derived pleasure and instruction from visiting your Lodge this evening. In performing the ceremony of installation, in this, as well as in other Lodges, it has been my earnest endeavour to impress upon the Worshipful Master, his officers, and the brethren generally, the necessity of acting up to the professions they make from time to time, and I am sure if we will so act, the blessing of T.G.A.O.T.U. will rest upon us, and the good wishes you have so forcibly expressed, that masonry may flourish and that a bright future will be in store for the craft in Shanghai, will be fully realized. On behalf of myself and officers I return you many thanks for your kind expressions towards us, and we hope that the year on which we have now entered may prove one of prosperity to the Royal Sussex Lodge and its members.

The various ceremonies having concluded, Worshipful Bro. EVANS rose and said—Brethren, I scarcely know how to address you, or thank you sufficiently for the great honor you have conferred upon us this evening. It is indeed a source of great pleasure to see so many of you and to welcome you all here with the right hand of fellowship. Brethren, there can be, I think, but one opinion as to the value of our D.G. Lodge lately established amongst us. It is, I think, the nucleus or germ from whence a revival in masonry will come, and be assured that while the baton of D. G. M. remains in the able hands that now wield it, masonry must flourish and a bright future for the craft in Shanghai is in store. Brethren, in again thanking you all for your attendance here, before I sit down permit me one word more, and that is simply to say it is very evident to my mind from this large meeting that "Love of the Craft" in Shanghai is not so dormant as some would have us believe. We have proof to-night that "where there is a will there always is a way." Such being the case I would urge upon the brethren to be more regular in their attendance at our stated meetings, such attendance being at all times most grateful to the rulers in the craft. Remember brethren it will take "a long pull and a strong pull, and a pull altogether" to make masonry as flourishing in Shanghai as it once was. Let us put our shoulders to the wheel and see if we can accomplish it.

The newly installed Master then invited the Brethren to join him and his officers at a Banquet provided in the adjoining room, and the Lodge was thereupon closed in due and ancient form.

Full justice having been done to the good things provided, Bro. JOHNSFORD, the W.M., rose and proposed the first toast, namely "The Queen and the Craft," remarking that it required no words from him to ensure for it a hearty reception.

After the National Anthem had been sung.

The W.M. said the next toast was also one which all Masons delighted to honour. It was that of the health of the most Worshipful Grand Master H.R. Highness the Prince of Wales and past Grand Masters of the Lodge.

Song—God bless the Prince of Wales. The W.M. said a pleasing duty now devolved upon him, and it was to propose the health of the R.W.D.G.M. and the officers of the D.G.L. in Northern China. The Brethren of the Royal Sussex Lodge were all proud of the presence of the R.W.D.G.M. and his officers, and

he, on their behalf, begged to thank the R.W.D.G.M. for the able and impressive manner in which he had conducted the installation ceremony. All Masons working under the English constitution, as well as those working under the American, German and Scottish constitutions, knew the value of the work the District Grand Lodge was doing, and they were proud of the untiring zeal and ability of their Right Worshipful D.G. Master, who, aided by his officers, was always ready to render assistance for the good of the craft. It was unnecessary for him to detain them longer; and he would now ask them to honour the toast as it deserved to be honoured.

The R.W.D.G. Master, in returning thanks, said—Worshipful Sir, this is the third time I have addressed the Brethren during the evening, but I feel constrained on behalf of the officers of the D.G. Lodge, as well as on my own behalf, to again return our united thanks for the kind hospitality extended towards us. We are trying to emulate our worthy predecessors who were so intimately connected with this Lodge. On the wall of this Banqueting room we see suspended the portraits of those well-known and highly esteemed Brethren to whom I have previously alluded, viz., our R.W. Bro. Samuel Rawson, P.P.G.M. and R.W. Bro. Henry Murray, P.D.G.M. for China, and who set an example worthy to be followed by all who are desirous of increasing the influence of masonry, or to benefit their fellow creatures. We have observed how well our newly installed W.M. has wielded the gavel this evening, and I hope and trust we may augur from this that a year of prosperity is in store for the Lodge over which he has been elected to preside. We know that he will have not only the sympathy and assistance of the Brethren working under the English constitution, but also that of the Brethren working under other constitutions, as we have many proofs that the right hand of fellowship is warmly given by those rejoicing in the tie of Brotherhood no matter from what country they may hail; and this, W. Sir, reminds me that you have permitted me the privilege of proposing the next toast, and I, therefore, hasten to do so. It is one always warmly received by the Shanghai Brethren amongst whom so much harmony exists. We have present many Brethren owing allegiance to other constitutions, and I ask you to join me in wishing prosperity to the Sister Grand Lodges. You, Brethren, are acquainted with the kindly interest that is always exhibited to us by the Brethren working under the D. G. Lodge of Scotland, the D. G. Lodge of Massachusetts, and the Three Globes of Berlin. Their virtues have been so frequently brought before you, that I am sure I need not detain you by referring to them, but ask you, without delay, to join me in the toast of prosperity to The Sister Grand Lodges.

R.W. Past Master Bro. W. BIRT, 30th, thanked the members of the Royal Sussex Lodge for the very kind and cordial reception they had given to the toast of the Sister Grand Lodges, proposed so ably by the R.W.D.G. Master. He (Bro. Birt) felt a double pleasure in being present at their installation this evening, first as a representative of the Scottish Craft working in China, and, secondly, as he was paying dutiful homage to his Mother Lodge, inasmuch as it was within the Royal Sussex Lodge, some sixteen years ago, that the first rays of Masonic light beamed upon his vision. He congratulated the Royal Sussex Lodge upon the large attendance, and particularly upon the numbers of Past Masters and other exalted members of the craft who were present, testifying plainly their unabated interest in China in an old Masonic lodge and their esteem for the newly installed Master, Wardens, and Officers. The duty now devolved upon him to propose the health of the newly installed Master, Wardens, and Officers of

the Royal Sussex Lodge. Bro. Johnsford's Masonic career was known to all of them. For many years past he had been a most industrious worker in Masonry, having held the offices of Inner Guard, Deacon, Junior and Senior Wardens, and this evening his Brethren had further expressed their confidence in him by selecting him as their Master. He therefore begged the brethren present to drink to the health and prosperity of the Master, Wardens, and Officers of the Royal Sussex Lodge.

The R.W.D.G.M. also rose and said—Brethren, it is a very important duty and pleasure that now devolves upon us all. It is to wish our W.M. health and prosperity during his year of office. I hope, Brethren, you will duly consider how much rests with yourselves in rendering his office one of usefulness and pleasure. We are aware, from what we know of him, that nothing will be required on his part to uphold the dignity of his Lodge. He has selected officers—tried and good Brethren,—who may also be depended upon for the faithful discharge of their duties, so that "with a long pull, a strong pull, and a pull altogether," so ably suggested by our immediate past Master W. Bro. Evans, we may look for great success during the coming year. Brethren, I ask you for a hearty response to the toast of the health of our W.M. Bro. Johnsford and his officers, so ably proposed by R.W. Past Master Bro. Birt.

The W.M., in felicitous terms, briefly acknowledged the toast.

W. Bro. HART said the next toast had been placed in his hands to propose, and it was pleasing to think that irrespective of any remarks from him he was sure it would meet with an enthusiastic reception. The toast he had to bring to their notice was the health of the "Past Masters of the Royal Sussex Lodge." The Royal Sussex Lodge seemed to have been particularly fortunate in obtaining good men to occupy the chair in the Lodge, and two of them had occupied most distinguished positions in Masonry in China, and he was happy to say that they were still useful in promoting the welfare of the craft at home. He believed the first D.G.M. of China, or as he was called the P.P.G.M., was a P.M. of the Royal Sussex Lodge. He need hardly say he referred to W. Bro. Rawson; and then there was also W. Bro. Murray, who was also P.D.G.M. and a P.M. of the Lodge. These two Brethren he need hardly say commanded the respect of all Masons in China, and were much respected in England. W. Bro. Brown and W. Bro. Camajee, had also worthily filled the chair of the Lodge, and W. Bro. Evans, who had vacated it this evening after two years of good service, had, during his (the speakers) residence in China, always been an active promoter of the craft, and he had proved his ability by the many useful methods he had adopted to make Masonry more generally useful. The Brethren were well acquainted with the very distinguished manner in which the Past Masters had conducted the affairs of the Lodge while under their control, and therefore he would not trespass further upon their time, but ask them to drink to the health and prosperity of the Past Masters of the Royal Sussex Lodge coupling with the toast the name of W. Bro. Evans.

Song by Bro. TWEEDIE.

P.M. W. Bro. EVANS, in responding, said—In calling upon me to respond for the Past Masters of the R. S. Lodge, I think you have made a mistake, as I scarcely know what to say, but I do think that you are doing injustice to me, to P.M. Bro. Brown, and to our visitors. First, to me, because I have already twice addressed you this evening; to our visitors because I think they would like to hear some other Brother's voice, and to P.M. Bro. Brown because I think this duty should have devolved upon him, and looking at the other end of the table I can see that he is impatient to unburthen

himself of the eloquence he feels pent up within him. I will, W.M., with your permission, call on P.M. Bro. Brown to respond to the toast of the Past Masters of the R. S. Lodge.

P.M. Bro. BROWN said—Having been unexpectedly called upon to reply to the toast of the Past Masters, I feel unprepared to do justice to my eminent predecessors. A great deal has been said about the Past Masters of this Lodge, but I notice that the names of one or two of the most useful and best men have been omitted. I refer to Wor. Bros. Parker and Stent. I had the pleasure to be initiated in this Lodge by the former, and in the presence of Right Wor. Bro. Murray, D.G. Master of China, and have pleasant reminiscences of the manner in which the ceremony was performed, and I have pleasant recollections of having served in various offices under the Mastership of Bro. Stent. On their behalf and that of the Past Masters present, I therefore tender my hearty thanks for the enthusiastic manner in which you have received this toast. Before resuming my seat I avail myself of the opportunity to propose the health of the Visitors, coupled with the name of Wor. Bro. Weiller.

W. Bro. WEILLER, D.G. Sup. of Works of the District Grand Lodge of Japan, in a very humorous speech responded.

The Tyler's toast of Poor and Distressed Masons was next drunk, and shortly afterwards the company separated.

ADMINISTRATION MUNICIPALE DE LA CONCESSION FRANÇAISE.

Résumé des délibérations du Conseil.

Séance du 18 Février, 1879, sous la présidence de M. E. Millot. Conseillers présents :—M.M. G. Bluntschli, R. Buschmann, H. Vinay, Ed. Wheeley, and H. Sayn, Secrétaire.

Le Conseil décide que pendant l'absence temporaire de M. H. Sayn, Secrétaire du Conseil, qui rentre en France en congé, M. C. Caussade remplira les fonctions de Secrétaire par intérim.

Approbation des propositions émises par le Comité des Finances.

Approbation de celles émises par le Comité des Travaux relatifs.

Au rechargement de la chaussée du quai de France.

A l'achat de 1,000 tonneaux de granit et de 300 mètres cubes de briques cassées pour les réparations des rues de la Concession.

A la construction d'un bâtiment pour loger les employés des Travaux.

Aux réparations à faire au mur de quai en bois sur le Whampoo depuis la rues du Consulat jusqu'au pont de pierre.

Personnel des Bureaux.—M. Baconnier est nommé au poste de percepteur.

"Fire Department."—Sur la demande de la "Fire Commission" le Conseil porte sa contribution pour l'année 1879, de Taëls 1,000 à Taëls 1,500.

Recensement.—Le recensement de la population sur la Concession, donne le résultat suivant :—

Etrangers	307
Indigènes	33,353

Lecture et approbation des rapports du Médecin, des Chefs de service et de l'Inspecteur des marchés.

La séance est levée.

Séance du 21 Janvier 1879, sous la présidence de M. E. Millot. Conseillers présents :—M.M. G. Bluntschli, R. Buschmann, H. Vinay, Ed. Wheeley, H. Lester, H. Sayn, Secrétaire.

Avant d'entrer en séance, le conseil inspecte la Garde Municipale, les prisons, les logements de la Garde, le local de la pompe à incendie, et les bureaux des différents services.

Approbation du procès-verbal de la dernière séance.

Personnel de la Garde.—Lecture d'une lettre de M. le Consul-général de France, annonçant qu'il a reçu la démission de M. Barbe, Chef de la Garde.

Compte-rendu de 1878.—Examen du compte-rendu de 1878, ainsi que des rapports de fin d'année des Chef de service. Le Conseil décide que le compte-rendu pour l'exercice 1878 et le Budget pour 1879 seront traduits en Anglais et envoyés aux contribuables étrangers.

Quai du Whampoo.—L'Ingénieur est autorisé à faire construire le garde-fou en métal qui doit être placé sur la nouvelle partie du quai du Whampoo.

Lecture et approbation des rapports du Médecin, des Chefs de service et de l'Inspecteur des marchés.

La séance est levée.

Amusements.

NO 2 COMPANY, S.V.C. RIFLE COMPETITION.

The monthly competition of No. 2 Company, of the S. V. C., took place on Saturday, the shooting commencing at 6.45 o'clock in the morning and being resumed at 4 o'clock in the afternoon. On both occasions a strong breeze from the left, in disagreeable gusts, was blowing, which materially affected the scoring of the less experienced hands, but the light being good, the "crack" shots made creditable totals. Private Johnston, at 500 yards, made six "bulls," out his seven shots, his sighting shot being also a bull, and with this splendid shooting he won the cup with a total of 57 out of a possible 70. Having previously held it, it now becomes his property, and at the conclusion of the competition his companions in arms gave him three hearty cheers.

It will not be out of place to mention that it is now two years since these monthly competitions were commenced by Captain Harvie, and that the cup won by Private Johnston is the third that has been provided, Sergeant Tucker and Private J. H. Baker being the previous winners. It is needless to say that the competitions have greatly improved the condition of the Company and created an amount of zeal which it lacked before, and this is greatly due to the interest Captain Harvie and Sergeant Tucker take in their men.

Subjoined is the score of Saturday's shooting over 30 points:—

	200 yds.	Total.	500 yds.	Total.	Grand Total.
Priv. Johnston	3315253-25	5355555-32	57		
" Thirly	4130344-23	3213555-27	52		
" Bowman	5415432-27	2245133-23	50		
Sergt. Tucker	5333332-22	5745444-27	49		
Priv. Moutrie S.	5333332-22	4734323-21	48		
" Parlon	2435355-27	4734323-21	48		
" Moutrie F.	4532243-24	0280605-10	34		
" Grisdale	4225334-25	373002-7	32		
" Grisdale	2234342-20	6043304-11	31		

Correspondence.

THE FAMINE IN THE NORTH.

Ping-yang-fu, 14th Feb.

MY DEAR MR. MUIRHEAD,—I arrived here on the 10th.

The suffering is far less than last year. I did not see any dead the whole way down, and it is said very few die of actual starvation. The price of grain (excepting wheat, which is high) is only double the usual rate in average years, the price of silver one or two hundred cash per tael higher than this time last year, and the general appearance of everything much improved; still the San Fu, who is in charge of the prefecture during the Chifu's absence in Tai-yuen-fu, says that relief is given in each of the eleven districts (Chow-hiens), and will be continued until the beginning of June, when the wheat and

opium crops will be ripe, for there is much land lying waste for want of means to sow it, and silver is about 400 cash per tael below ordinary years' average, perhaps one of the best tests of the want of prosperity of a place.

We, Messrs. Hill, Scott and myself, consulted with the officials about the places of distribution. They mentioned 4 Chow-hiens, Lin Fèn, Fèn-lsi, (last year one of the most distressed in Shansi), Ki-chow and Hiang-ning. But as the Fu has not returned, they suggested beginning at Lin Fèn, and this we agreed to do. Now, we are four foreigners here and we expect Messrs. Turner and Baller again shortly. Messrs. Scott and Capel hope to be able to remain here until the middle of April.

Distribution this year is not so easy, requiring more discrimination than last year, owing to less general suffering. And this makes Mr. Hill think that the Shanghai Committee had better be asked what is to be done with the balance, if we cannot get through all by the beginning of June.

When the Chifu returns, we shall be able to write more definitely about all our arrangements. Meanwhile we work in Lin-fen-hien.

TIMOTHY RICHARD.

THE RECREATION FUND.

To the Editor of the

NORTH-CHINA HERALD.

SIR,—The report of the Honorary Secretary to the Shanghai Recreation Fund, to 31st December, 1878, is now before the public, and the Secretary tenders his resignation.

The assets are—	Valued.
Race Course property.....	12,900.00
Club building.....	50,000
Less mod. age.....	27,500
Loans at 5% interest.....	22,500.00
Cash.....	9,000.00
	296.74
Tails.....	45,799.74

while the Income for 1879 is estimated at Tls. 8,685, against an expenditure of Tls. 6,085. I would suggest that this valuable property should be placed under the control of the Municipal Council and not left to Trustees, who are either absent or continually changing.

I am, Sir,

Yours sincerely,

PRO BONO PUBLICO.

11th March.

Miscellaneous.

THE HAKKA RISING IN HAINAN.

(Daily Press.)

The Hakka rising in Hainan would seem, from the intelligence just received, to be practically at an end. The insurgents have apparently found that they will not be able to cope with the forces sent against them, or else their munitions and supplies have begun to fail them, for they have offered to lay down their arms on condition that their lives are spared. The Viceroy of the Two Kwang does not appear to entertain this offer altogether favourably. It is almost a tradition in the Central Kingdom that there is but one way of effectually suppressing rebellions, and that is, by laying low a goodly number of heads. Justice is seldom tempered with mercy in China. It is to be hoped, however, that mild-reconcils will prevail in the treatment of the unfortunate Hakkas. These people seem ready to have been forced into revolt by the direst of necessities. Prolific in their off-spring beyond most other peoples, the Hakkas are constantly craving for room. They swarm over South China, little by little crowding out other divisions of the race as they proceed onward. They are a labouring class, seldom engaging in trade, and they are looked down upon by

the Cantonese, whose ambition is far greater. Their progress, however, is not unresisted and feuds between the Hakkas and the natives of the districts they entrench upon are of constant occurrence. It was in consequence of one of these feuds in a district of Kwangtung that a body of Hakkas emigrated to Hainan about twelve years ago. The authorities gave them a portion of land, and they appear since that time to have lived peaceably, increasing and multiplying with great rapidity, until now the land originally granted to them is insufficient to maintain their augmented numbers. They are ignorant of the scientific laws of population, and, with primitive simplicity, when they want more room they proceed to take it, or endeavour to do so. This is the origin of the rising in Hainan. It has been suppressed more readily than we had imagined it would be from the meagre accounts of its progress which had from time to time reached us, but the insurgents have not been overcome without some loss to the Imperial troops, a recent advice stating that five hundred soldiers and several mandarins had been killed in battle. We have not since heard of any other encounter between the troops and the insurgents, but as the news received has been of the baldest description, it is quite possible that the Hakkas have suffered a series of considerable reverses. At all events, whether owing to actual defeat or the failure of supplies, it would appear that they are now almost at the mercy of the authorities. Whether the latter will deem a policy of extermination necessary, or whether it is simply the leaders whom the mandarins desire to decapitate, does not appear, but certain it is that the industrious Hakkas who have been driven into insurrection by want could be turned to a much better use than to provide material for the executioner's sword. China has a large population, but it is only her seaboard provinces that are really thickly peopled. In Yunnan and other inland provinces there are vast stretches of waste land. The Chinese Government is a paternal one, and it would therefore be quite within its functions to transport these people to unoccupied districts where there would be room for many years to come for the inevitable increase in their numbers. In Formosa, also, there would be room for them. Not long ago the Government started a scheme of emigration to that island, which, however, does not appear to have been attended with much success. The aborigines are a constant source of trouble, and there appears to be great need for a settled working population to develop the resources of the country. If the overflow of the Hakka population were taken there they would in all probability ere long crowd out the aborigines or reduce them to such a state of necessity that they would have to enter into the ordinary labour market to preserve their existence.

WORDS ON YOK FEI.

(An Historical Romance.—Translated from the Chinese.)

CHAPTER III.—(Continued.)

Now the Prince possessed fair abilities, but had been so confused by Ts'ung's outburst that in his confusion he wrote 力 li for 刀 tao; he had then to rub out the top stroke till the character became neither li nor tao. Meanwhile Yok had composed and handed up his essay, and the Prince had perforce to do the same. Paing Chang on seeing the Prince's essay, hid it up his sleeve, but on looking at Yok's he said to himself, "This man's learning is remarkable indeed, and exceeds my own." However, he throws it on the ground and shouts out, "The writer of such an essay as this to compete for the Chuang-yuanship, turn him off." The attendants were about to hustle Yok off, when Ts'ung cried out "Don't stir a

finger." None dared move. Ts'ung ordered Yok's essay to be given him. The men, fearing Chang, dared not move and Yok had to pick it up himself. Ts'ung spread it out before him; and said, "The words were like gold and jade, the characters resembled pearls and jems." He thought to himself, "This is the way this bandit (Chang) despises talent and honors profit," and he put the essay in his sleeve. Addressing Yok, he said "How can a man with such abilities as yours take the Chuang-yuan? Don't you know why Soo-chin handed up the myriad sentence book, and how Wen Ting-chun made the sonnet on the Southern flower in old times? Soo-chin went to the Chin Court to present his book, and the Prime Minister, Chai Hsiang, was jealous of his abilities and refused to pass him, preferring Chang I. Or about Wen Ting? The Prince of that time, when walking in his garden to inspect the Nan Hua flower, ordered his Prime Minister to compose a sonnet thereon. The Minister asked for time and was given till next morning. He could, however, compose nothing, and asked his secretary to write one for him. Wen composed the sonnet, and the Minister, jealous of his ability and fearing the matter should come to the ear of his Imperial master, poisoned Wen, copied the sonnet, and handed it up as his own." "Now," Ts'ung added, "was not this envying merit and despising ability?" Chang was furious, a fury which led to great consequences. He knew this was a sarcasm directed against him, and feeling somewhat empty about the heart could only rage in silence; so he replied, "Well we won't discuss your essay, Yok Fei, but dare you have a trial at archery with Prince Chai." Yok replied, "What your Excellency orders, all must obey." Ts'ung was well pleased at this, and ordered the target to be set up at a distance of 110 paces. Chai thought the target a long way off and begged Chang to let Yok shoot first, as his own bow was weak. Chang ordered Yok to shoot first, at the same time telling the attendants to put the target a distance of 240 paces, expecting Yok would not dare shoot, but would decline the contest. But Yok with great deliberation stepped forward, bent his bow till it was round as a moon, and shot off nine arrows, each shot being followed by the rattle of drums. The target is then brought for inspection, and the boy says, "This student's shooting is wonderful, all the arrows are in one hole." Chang furiously orders the removal of the target. Chai thinking he could not compete with such shooting as this, determined to test Yok at fencing, and then beg him to yield up the Chuang-yuanship; if he refused he would then cut him down; he therefore said, "All Yok's arrows have hit the centre, I can do no more, why then attempt to rival him; let us test each other's general fighting powers." Pang Chang accordingly ordered Yok to do so. Prince Chai mounted his horse and rode axe in hand to the centre of the ground where he awaited Yok. Yok, though eminent as a fencer, feared Chai's high rank and showed signs of hesitation. However, he forced himself to mount and rode slowly out with a dispirited air, lance in hand. The crowds of bye-standers seeing this, doubted Yok's capacity to resist Prince Chai, and expected him to lose. Ts'ung thought, too, he had been wasting his energies on one who after all was a sham. When Yok had drawn near, Chai said quietly, "I have something to tell you, if you will pretend to be beaten and let me attain my aim, I will reward you heavily; if you won't I fear your life is not worth a moment's purchase." Yok replied, "The slightest orders of the long-descended should be obeyed, but this matter of examination does not concern me alone. The gallant fellows of all the Empire are assembled here to-day, and numbers, through poverty and cold, have striven and studied for over ten years, awaiting this day of trial to gain honor for themselves and to shed glory on their ancestors.

Long-descended, you are a foreign (fan) Prince of ample wealth, why do you strive after this military Chuang-yuanship? To deprive these poor candidates of honor, is it not above to be ungrateful to the Sacred desire to seek for men of eminence; below, to deprive gallant men of opportunities to repay Imperial's favors? Long-descended, I entreat you to yield in this matter of examination." On hearing this, the Prince roared out in fury, "You dog, I advise you for your good, and would not have grudged you any wealth for your acquiescence; and you turn on me with this cant and nonsense; look out for my sword" and he cut down at Yok's head. Yok guarded his head with his lance and parried the blow; Chai then made a cut at his loins, but Yok holding his spear athwart his body again parried the blow. Blow after blow then clattered about Yok, but he could not be hit, and only parried the blows. Chai at last desisted and turned his horse to the examiner's tent. Yok followed behind him. Chai tells Pang Chang, "This Yok's skill is very ordinary, he would be no use in battle." Chang said, "So I thought, he is not your equal, long-descended." Ts'ung seeing Yok kneeling behind Chai called him up and said, "How can you expect renown after an exhibition like this?" Yok said, "It is not a question of skill but of difference in rank. I did not dare meet him in fair fight." Ts'ung said, "Then you should not have come to be examined." Yok said, "With only one chance in three years, how could I not come but these competitions are usually only in riding, archery, sword exercise, and spear play. But this prince joins combat with me and if he accidentally wounds me I lose my life, but he escapes on account of his rank. If I injure him, he and his will never rest satisfied, and my life will not only be in danger but that of others will be involved, Honorable Sirs, give your decision. If the Prince will sign a paper with me declaring, if either wounds or injures the other, that no revenge will be taken, I will again join combat with him." Ts'ung, replied, "You say rightly, from old wounds or death in combats are but trifles; you, Prince, agree of course?" Chai was irresolute. Chang Pang-chang said, "This Yok has a formidable tongue, let us see what the merits are of this resolute speaker, long-descended; you had better draw up this document, and if you wound or kill him the students will have to acquiesce." Chai could not help himself and signed the document in duplicate with Yok. The Prince handed his copy to Chang and Yok his to Ts'ung. Ts'ung advised Yok to give it to his own people. Yok agreed, and informing the Prince, mounted his horse and gave the document to the care of Tang-huai, telling him to watch the door of the ground; if he (Yok) should fall, to gather up his corpse and have him buried; if he won, to keep the gate open. He then handed him the paper.

A great circle of students is now formed round the combatants, and meanwhile Chai returned to his tent. This he did—1. Because he was a prince. 2. Because he had bought over sundry dishonest officials to allow him to act wrongly; 3. Because he had soldiers with him as an escort. These followers he now summons and relates all about Yok and his own failure to get the first place; how, too, the paper had been drawn up and how as he was sure to be wounded what was to be done! All cried out, "If this Yok dares kill or hurt the long-descended, we will rush in and murder him; be not afraid, Prince." Well pleased, Chai armed himself and mounted. On catching sight of Yok he notices he sat upright and confident in his saddle, very different to before; he felt slightly afraid. He then again tried to persuade Yok to yield him the first place, offering Yok the second, which would ensure Yok a high office. Yok replied the matter did not rest with him alone, as there were thousands of other competitors. Chai in a

fury then cut at Yok's head. Yok parried it with such force as jarred Chai's arm. Chai in alarm and confusion made another wild blow, but Yok quietly pushed it aside with his lance. Chai then seeing Yok did not dare return his blows, plucked up courage and aimed blow after blow at Yok's head, cheeks, and neck. Yok at last said, "Chai-kuei, you don't know your limit, desist, or your luck will fail." On hearing Yok call him by name, Chai cursed Yok, saying, "Dog, I, to exalt you, addressed you as student, and you address me by my name, take my sword," and he aimed a furious blow at Yok's head. Yok coolly put it aside and thrust right at the Prince's side and struck him on the armour, and then raising his lance hit him on the helmet, hurling him to the ground; he then despatched him. A shout of admiration arose from the bye-standers. The soldiery on guard were in great alarm and watched Yok, but he without changing color fixed his lance in the ground, tied his horse to it, and awaited orders. The fight and its result is now reported to the examiners. Ts'ung felt anxious. Chang ordered Yok to be bound and brought before him. This was done. Chai's men now wished to revenge him, but Yok's comrades came up and defended him and the retainers retired not liking the look of things; they felt sure also Chang would never pardon Yok. Niu-kao, however, on seeing Yok bound, was wild with despair. Chang ordered instant execution. Ts'ung interposing said, "No, you forget that paper; the students will never let you kill him. You must first memorialize the Throne." Chang said, "Yok is a student, Chai was a Prince, and Yok in killing him acted like a man who has neither father nor Prince. It is an old saying, 'Rebels and bad Ministers anyone may kill.'" He then ordered execution. Niu in a rage now yells forth, "Yok, in fighting for the championship, happens to slay this Prince, we are all competitors, don't let us students allow this vile Minister to act" and he struck a blow at the standard pole snapped it off and waving the flag urged on the students to follow him. Chang and his two co-examiners, in a fright, begged Ts'ung to help them, as all were in the same box. Ts'ung told the attendant to announce to the rioters he had something to tell them from Ts'ung. The noise ceased, but the students crowded round, one saying one thing and another another. Ts'ung advised his co-examiners to memorialize the Throne and pacify the crowd by releasing Yok. They agreed directly. Ts'ung ordered Yok to be released. Having gained his life, Yok thanked Ts'ung and getting his armour, mounted his horse and rode off followed by his comrades. The gate of the ground they burst open, and rode off for their lives. The other students surmising the examination was over also dispersed. The Prince's corpse is taken away and buried. The examiners proceed to the Court and memorialize the Throne.

The next chapter will disclose the Royal decision.

(To be continued.)

Law Reports.

CIVIL SUMMARY COURT.

Shanghai, 6th March.

Before R. A. MOWAT, Esq.

WING CHU-DA v. Captain BUCHANAN.

Defendant is master of the barque *Crosby*, and plaintiff sued him to recover the sum of \$37.50 for damage to his sampan and loss of clothing.

In answer to his Honour, defendant explained that on the 22nd January last his ship was going down the harbour in charge of a pilot, and when crossing the chow-chow water, the tide got the better of the ship, and she ran into the sampan, causing it to sink.

His agent, Mr. Meyerink, was acquainted with the circumstances and had offered to give the plaintiff \$25, as compensation, when he could produce some writing to show that he was the owner of the sampan, but plaintiff had failed to do this.

Plaintiff was now willing to accept \$25 in settlement of his claim. His sampan was sunk and he had lost all his clothing that was in it. Two other sampans were slightly damaged at the same time.

It was arranged that defendant should take the plaintiff to Mr. Meyerink's office and pay him \$25, and that defendant should also pay the costs of the Court.

7th March.

CHARLES WILLIAMS v. R. C. WICKS.

Plaintiff is a seaman staying at the Sailors' Home, and he sued the defendant, who is the Superintendent of the Home, to recover \$42 for expenses and loss of time in Shanghai caused by his preventing him taking a passage to Nagasaki, and also for \$14 balance of money remaining in his hands, making a total claim of \$56.

Plaintiff was discharged on the 19th February from the *Kaisow* with a balance of wages of over \$200, and he paid defendant \$35—\$30 in advance for a month's board, and \$3 for the usual guarantee given by the defendant that he should not become an expense to the Government. On Wednesday, the 26th ult., plaintiff wished to go to Japan, and was taking his ticket to go there when defendant told him he could not leave Shanghai and prevented his going. On a second occasion plaintiff wished to go to Japan, but was again prevented by the defendant, who also refused to return him the balance of the \$30 he had advanced for a month's board. On the 5th inst. plaintiff took out the present summons against the defendant, claiming damages for his detention in Shanghai, and \$14 as the balance of the \$30 advanced for board.

Plaintiff, in answer to his Honour, explained that the reason he did not take out the summons as soon as the defendant first prevented his going to Nagasaki, and thereby prevent the claim becoming larger, was because he hoped to get his money from the defendant without coming to Court, and when he found he could not settle with him, he tried to see the Consul. He went upstairs and saw a young person—not the Consul—who told him he could not see the Consul just then. Afterwards he walked towards what he thought was the Consul's room by the indication of a hand pointing on the wall, and two Chinamen stopped him and pushed him down stairs. He did not wish to assault the Chinamen, and came quietly away.

His Honour pointed out to him that by the delay the claim had accumulated, which was unjust to the defendant. The action should have been brought as soon as he was prevented going to Japan the first time.

Plaintiff said he was ignorant of Court proceedings. He had only been in one Court before in his life.

His Honour thought from the way in which plaintiff had conducted this case that he was well up in Court matters. He explained that the plaintiff could not recover because defendant had not prevented him going to Nagasaki; defendant had no power to prevent him going there.

Plaintiff—But he has taken that power in his hands.

His Honour—Your case rests upon the defendant having prevented you taking a passage to Nagasaki. Now, really and strictly he did not prevent you taking your passage. By saying to you "I don't think you should go," he did not prevent you taking your passage, and you could have gone to Nagasaki for all that I see, and if you had any claim against him for the money he withheld you could have brought it.

Plaintiff—He would not give me my money and he told me I could not go.

His Honour—He was wrong in saying you could not go, but you should have paid no attention to him.

Plaintiff—I did as he told me.

His Worship said he had explained the technical grounds why plaintiff could not recover, and now he came to the merits of the case. Defendant guaranteed that the plaintiff would not be an expense to the

Government, and it was only in consequence of his guarantee that he was discharged from the ship. Without that guarantee plaintiff could not have been discharged. Defendant was the person who gave the guarantee, and when a man was discharged from a ship in that way, the ordinary course was that he remained here until he was shipped away. If, for example, plaintiff had gone to Nagasaki, and not shipped there, and returned to Shanghai and become an expense to the Government, defendant would still be liable under his guarantee. He did not see any reason why plaintiff should not fall in with the regular course, for if it had not been for the defendant's guarantee he would still have been in the ship—the guarantee was the only condition on which he got free of the ship.

Plaintiff said that made him not a free man.

His Honour replied that he was under the guarantee.

Plaintiff defined the law to be that a sailor, with the consent of the Captain, could be discharged in any port. The articles did not specify that he was to be discharged in Shanghai, but he was of the opinion that the Captain could have discharged him here without a guarantee. He also maintained that he had paid the defendant for the guarantee he gave on his behalf, and said that if he had wanted to ship he could have done so the same day he was discharged. But he wanted to go to British Columbia, and it was his intention to pay his passage there.

His Honour said unless it was specified on the articles, sailors could only be discharged in Shanghai with the consent of the Consul, and the Consul would not sanction the discharge of any one who was likely to be an expense to the Government afterwards. The Sailors' Home existed for the sole purpose that guarantees could be given for men so that they should not become an expense to the Government.

Plaintiff said he wanted to pay his passage away, and therefore could not have become an expense to the Government.

His Honour repeated that it was the defendant's guarantee that got the plaintiff out of his ship, and it was not right that the plaintiff should turn round and treat the defendant as if he had done nothing for him. He also repeated what he previously said in reference to the defendant's liability under the guarantee, and advised the plaintiff to ship away from Shanghai as soon as he could, and if there was a balance of the \$30 he had paid in advance for his board it would be returned him.

Plaintiff said defendant had prevented his leaving Shanghai when he wanted to, and it was an easy thing for him to stay at the Sailors' Home a few years, and he would employ the time by going to school. It was a swindle to keep a man's money when he wanted to go away, but he would have the worth of it now, and there was another man in the Sailors' Home who had been done out of £21, and he should like to know whether that was fair or not.

His Honour said he knew nothing about that case at present. A summons would be issued if the party thought proper to apply for one, and he would then decide that case also.

POLICE COURT.

Shanghai, 6th March.

Before R. A. MOWAT, Esq.

MARY M. WHEELER v. CHARLES WHEELER.

Assaulting a wife.

Prisoner was brought up under a warrant charged with assaulting his wife.

Prisoner, in answer to his Worship, said he did not remember striking his wife, but he knew that he broke some of the furniture in the house—he broke half and his wife broke the other half.

The prosecutrix, a Chinese woman, said that on Tuesday night her husband had his evening meal about six o'clock, and they had some bother and he took \$2 and went out and got drunk. He returned about half-past ten o'clock, and began slapping her face and pulling her about. She told him that she was his wife and that such conduct was not proper, and he slapped her face again, making her nose bleed and causing her lip to swell.

Prisoner said he was sorry for what he had done. His wife had a bad temper and so had he, and when she broke a chair he broke another one. He did not remember striking her, and when she spoke to him about it on Wednesday morning he begged her pardon.

It appeared that both the prosecutrix and the prisoner each supplied certain articles of furniture, and when one broke an article the other followed suit. Six months ago the prisoner was charged with a similar offence, when his wife, who appeared with a black eye, withdrew the charge.

It transpired that a foreign constable visited the house while the row was in progress, and his Worship ultimately remanded the prisoner in custody until to-day for him to be in attendance.

7th March.

Prisoner was brought up on remand from the previous day, charged with assaulting his wife.

The prosecutrix now expressed her desire to withdraw the charge if prisoner would promise not to assault her again.

Prisoner, in answer to his Worship, said he would promise he would not abuse her again, and this time he was sure he would keep his word.

His Worship told him that it was solely on the intercession of the prosecutrix that he did not send him to gaol. If she had not withdrawn the charge he would have had no alternative but to send him to gaol, and he asked prisoner in his future conduct towards her to bear this in mind. He would now be discharged, but if ever he came before the Court for assaulting his wife again, the present charge, and also the one six months' ago, would not be forgotten, and he would be sent to gaol for a long period.

11th March.

R. (Police) v. WILLIAM STAVES.

Unlawfully Wounding.

Prisoner, who is a stoker on board of H.M.'s corvette *Charybdis*, was brought up on remand charged with unlawfully wounding a jinriksha man, in Hongkew, on the night of the 4th inst.

The case was investigated a week ago, and it will be remembered that prisoner, who had hired the jinriksha man, refused to pay him, and struck him on the side of the eye with a Chinese cutlass. The particulars of the case have been fully reported in our columns, and to-day prisoner was brought up to hear his Worship's decision.

His Worship imposed a fine of \$10 and costs, and ordered prisoner to pay \$2 to the jinriksha coolie.

12th March.

R. (Captain MURPHY) v. WILLIAM GIBBON and WILLIAM STOUT.

Absent without Leave.

Prisoners are able seamen belonging to the crew of the barque *Connaught Ranger*, and they were charged with being absent from the vessel without leave.

Captain MURPHY, the master of the ship, explained that from the 3rd to the 8th inst. the vessel was alongside the Wharf and prisoners went on shore as much as they liked. When the vessel left the Wharf they absented themselves without leave, and had not returned to the ship.

Prisoners both admitted the offence.

Captain MURPHY, in answer to his Worship, said he thought prisoners ought to be made an example of to deter the rest of the crew doing as they had done.

His Worship sent them to gaol for fourteen days.

UNITED STATES CONSULATE-GENERAL.

Shanghai, 6th March.

Before D. H. BAILEY, Esq., Vice-Consul General.

BRIDGET WILLIAMS v. JOHN CHARLES WILLIAMS.

Mr. HENDERSON appeared for the plaintiff Defendant conducted his own case.

This was a wife's petition for the dissolution of her marriage with the defendant. The evidence had been taken before a referee, and at a previous sitting of the Court, Mr.

Henderson summed up on behalf of his client, and to-day the Court delivered judgment.

The Court said—The libel in this case sets up several causes for divorce, but there are only two which need to be considered. The first cause, recognized as the most potent reason known to the law for decreeing a divorce, adultery, has been proved by such evidence as is entirely within the rule laid down by Lord Stowell. Quoting the language of that great jurist: "It is a fundamental rule that it is not necessary to prove the direct fact of adultery, because if it were otherwise, there is not one case in a hundred in which that proof would be attainable. In every case almost the fact is inferred from circumstances that lead to it by fair inference as a necessary conclusion; and unless this were the case, and unless this were so held, no protection whatever could be given to marital rights. What are the circumstances which lead to such a conclusion cannot be laid down universally, though many of them, of a more obvious nature, and of more frequent occurrence, are to be found in the ancient books; at the same time it is impossible to indicate them universally; because they may be infinitely diversified by the situation and character of the parties, by the state of general manners, and by many other incidental circumstances, apparently slight and delicate in themselves, but which may have most important bearings in decisions upon the particular case. The only general rule that can be laid down upon the subject is that the circumstances must be such as would lead the guarded discretion of a reasonable and just man to the conclusion; for it is not to lead a rash and intemperate judgment, moving upon appearances, that are equally capable of two interpretations; neither is it to be a matter of artificial reasoning, judging upon such things differently from what would strike the careful and cautious consideration of a discreet man. The facts are not of a technical nature; they are facts determinable upon common grounds of reason; and Courts of Justice would wander very much from their proper office of giving protection to the rights of mankind if they let themselves loose to subtleties, and remote and artificial reasonings upon such subjects. Upon such subjects the rational and the legal interpretation must be the same."

It is not necessary, nor do I think it proper, to recapitulate the evidence in this particular. It is sufficient to say that it all points with the strongest circumstantial certainty to adultery by the defendant.

It is an axiom of the law that fraud vitiates a contract. The testimony shows, and the defendant admits, that he married the plaintiff under a false name; that his name is John Curtis, but that he married the plaintiff under the assumed name of John Charles Williams. There are all the indices of fraud here, legal and moral, misrepresentation and concealment; such fraud as both upon principle and precedent courts spurn from their threshold. It is a fraud, a total lack of good faith, against the sanctity of that relationship of which Chancellor Kent says:—"The primary and most important of the domestic relations is that of husband and wife. It has its foundation in nature, and is the only lawful relation by which Providence has permitted the continuance of the human race. In every age it has had a propitious influence on the moral improvement and happiness of mankind. It is one of the chief foundations of social order. We may justly place to the credit of the institution of marriage a great share of the blessings which flow from refinement of manners, the education of children, the sense of justice, and the cultivation of the liberal arts."

Upon this ennobling relationship the defendant has committed the grossest of frauds. The case in 3rd Maule and Selwyn, cited by Counsel for plaintiff, presents the same question as to marriage under a false name as is presented in this case; and there Sir William Scott unhesitatingly pronounced the marriage null and void for fraud. In 11, Kent's Commentaries, p. 42, the following language is used:—"A marriage procured by force or fraud is also void *ab initio*, and may be treated as null by every Court in which its validity may be drawn in question."

The ground of the defence set up in the nature of a cross-libel, is habitual drunkenness of the plaintiff, a cause only recognized by special statutory regulations. There is no

such statute in operation here; and if there were, the attempt to show habitual drunkenness of the plaintiff has been most futile. There has been no hurry allowed in this case. The defendant has had ample time to prepare his defence and to marshal his witnesses. His failure to show habitual drunkenness of the plaintiff is complete. If he had shown this phase of drunkenness, it would have had great weight in adjusting the costs.

The marriage contract being, by the accepted opinions of mankind, more sacred than all other contracts, Courts travel with every necessary caution before annulling, in any case, the bonds of matrimony. But while this rule of caution is to be observed, it is equally clear that for sufficient legal reasons the marital relations should be dissolved.

In this case there is both adultery and fraud—heinous offences fatal to the peace and happiness of families—offences against law and morals, and to be reprobated in every walk of life. Against these charges the defence shown is worse than flimsy.

There will be entered, in favor of the plaintiff, a decree of divorce *a vinculo matrimonii* with costs, as provided in such cases, and she will be allowed a reasonable sum for Attorney's fees.

Mr. HENDERSON, on the subject of Counsel's fee, quoted the divorce case of Burr v. Burr, decided by Mr. G. Wiley Wells, in which there was an allowance of \$100 for costs, and argued that he thought if the opportunity was given him he could show that the defendant was much better off than he had represented himself to be. By the line of defence he (defendant) had taken, he had caused a great deal of work and trouble, and Mr. Henderson thought that the sum of \$100 would be a fair amount for the Court to allow, though he had to confess ignorance of the scale of fees charged by the legal profession in Shanghai.

The COURT, after the matter had been argued, said he would follow the decision in the case of Burr v. Burr, and allow \$100.

MIXED COURT.

Shanghai, 6th March.

Before the Chinese Magistrate CHEE, and Dr. MACGOWAN, U.S. Assessor.

Kidnapping.

A case of kidnapping drew a large crowd of native auditors to the Court this morning. The kidnapper had been in the habit of renting a house near the Yang-king-pang, and of giving sweatmeats to a boy of six years of age. On Sunday the child was missed, and after three days' search he was found in the possession of a Canton woman at Hongkew, who paid \$35 for the child. Further inquiry showed the accused to be the kidnapper. He did not deny the charge, but stoutly refused to refund any of the money that he had received for child-stealing, although several persons who had aided him in the transaction refunded what he had given to them. They appeared innocent of the crime. The culprit was sentenced to be flogged from time to time until he gives back the money.

There was another case that contributed to draw a crowd of spectators. Some women were brought up by the Hongkew police for assaulting a doctor and breaking his sedan. He had been dragged out, and pulled and pounded by the women without mercy. The defendants admitted the charge and pleaded malpractice on the part of the doctor in extenuation. He had inoculated a child for the small pox, the patient died, and as the doctor refused to come and see it during its illness, the indignation of parents and friends was aroused, and they wreaked vengeance accordingly on the doctor. To further damage his reputation, it was charged that while in this case the virus that he had inserted into the nostrils of the child was too potent, in others it failed to produce any effect. The case was dismissed, Chen, however, thinking the women ought to have spared the sedan.

11th March.

Attempt at Arson.

A native doctor, who for many years has lived in Hongkew, was brought up on the charge of attempting to set fire to an adjoining dwelling. It appeared that prisoner's

family and that of his next-door neighbour had been at perpetual variance, and on the previous night the house of the latter was discovered to be on fire. There were indications of the application of kerosene oil, and on an examination being made traces of this inflammable material were found leading to the prisoner's house, whose belongings, moreover, were packed up ready for removal. After a rather lengthy investigation the case was remanded for the Magistrate to visit the place.

Extracts.

LI HUNG-CHANG v. FOREIGN MERCHANTS.
(Daily Press.)

The offensive reference to foreign hongts made in the Viceroy of Chihli's reply to the second petition of Peng Taotai, on the proposed scheme for starting a cotton spinning and weaving mill at Shanghai has naturally provoked some comment in that port. The words made use of were:—"The foreign hongts in Shanghai excel in powers of cheating; one and all they swindle you first and go to law with you afterwards. You lose your money to begin with, and when there is a question of fine, you get no justice." The foreign community of course were greatly irritated on reading this passage in our Shanghai morning contemporary and the accuracy of the translation was at first called in question. The translator soon settled any doubt on that score, however. The *Shen-pao* next published a letter from the Board of the projected Cotton Cloth Factory, in which they give the following explanation:—"The fair copy of the draft not having been thoroughly revised before publication, a clerical error was made by writing the words 'Foreign hongts in Shanghai,' instead of 'Foreign workmen in Shanghai.' This miswritten character has caused general indignation, for which we, the members of the Board are to blame. One word more. The 'Foreign workmen' mentioned refer simply to those individuals who introduce persons to act as brokers in purchase of machinery and hiring of artisans. No slight whatever is intended towards the body of foreign workmen as a whole." According to this, one character was substituted for another; but, as the correspondent of the *N.-C. Daily News* points out, there is no similarity in the two characters used for the above quoted words, and the explanation cannot be regarded as satisfactory. The *Courier*, which strangely enough has scarcely mentioned the proposed Company, appears to treat the explanation as a genuine one, and says the character should read "foreigners" employes, meaning their Chinese servants." This conclusion is promptly challenged by another correspondent, who says:—"We are to believe that Li's insult referred to the Chinese employes of foreign hongts. Why, the whole context proves that it is foreign firms of whom he is speaking. The Chinese employes of foreign hongts would certainly be beneath the great Viceroy's notice, and if there were disputes between them and a Taotai, Li knows well that it would not be the Taotai who would be unable to obtain redress."

We feel bound to say that our opinion chimes in with that of the *N.-C. Daily News* and its correspondents so far as regards the explanation offered being feeble and unsatisfactory. We have no desire to hastily denounce the Viceroy as being guilty of an intended and premeditated insult to the body of foreign merchants in China, although his anti-foreign proclivities are pretty well known. But we are impelled to express the opinion that in the absence of any better explanation than that offered by the Board of the proposed Factory, it is difficult to resist the conclusion that His Excellency has really made a serious charge against the mercantile community of the Model Settlement. That the Viceroy would fail to see every foreigner driven out of the Central Kingdom there is only too good reason to believe. He is shrewd enough to know that China is far too decrepit to accomplish this by force, but, with more foresight than the old-fashioned party at Peking, he has hit upon another way by which he fondly hopes to some day render the stay of "barbarians" in the Treaty ports unprofitable. To

this end he has fostered and is fostering native enterprises designed to compete with foreigners. He is reported to have said that he would yet reduce foreigners at Shanghai to the position of the Portuguese at Macao, and has done what little lay in his power to carry out this threat. Bearing in mind this bitter prejudice against the foreigners, there is nothing unreasonable in supposing that the slander was intentional. At the same time, for the sake of the promotion of friendly relations between foreigners and Chinese officials, we trust that there has been some mistake, and that the powerful Viceroy will come forward with some statement on the question. It remains to be seen whether His Excellency Li Hung-chang, Grand Secretary of Council and Viceroy of Chihli, will endorse the meaning put upon the passage referred to by the foreign community of Shanghai by maintaining silence, or will endeavour to show that they have misapprehended his meaning.

THE AFGHAN CAMPAIGN.

Calcutta, 8th Feb.

The native contingent is expected to reach Kahat on the ninth or tenth. The Commander-in-Chief leaves Calcutta on the 14th for Lahore. Heavy snow has fallen at Jellalabad, and there has been continuous rain at Kandahar. With reference to a statement of the *Times of India* correspondent regarding the troops being recalled from Khat-i-ghilzai, the fact is that it is not likely that there will be any occasion for any further operations in the Khat-i-ghilzai direction, after General Stewart has secured the flank on that side. General Biddulph has entered Girisik. The people, who have been sorely oppressed, gave him a cordial welcome, the women and children turning out to hail their English deliverers. A pontoon raft over the Helmund has been prepared for the baggage and ammunition. The position of the Girisik fort is very formidable, commanding the right bank approaches of the ford. The position of Girisik locally considered is of great importance. About half of General Biddulph's force is stationed at Arghandab for the present. General Faller command the advanced part of the force, and Colonel Lacy the rear column. There is sickness among the 32nd Pioneers; otherwise the troops are well. The climate is mild and enjoyable. *The Civil and Military Gazette* says that Wally Mohamed, the Ameer's half brother, has left General Roberts' camp for Jellalabad to confer with Major Cavagnari at the wish of the Government of India, as negotiations are already going on with Yakob through the political officer at Jellalabad. Wally Mohamed states that Yakob will be bound by oath to carry out his father's instructions not to treat with the English. Wally's great influence in Afghanistan and over the Ghilzais may produce important results. General Roberts left Hazar Pir on the fourth, with head-quarters for Ibrahimzai. Sir Neville Chamberlain is expected to arrive at Madras shortly.

Hazar Pir, 4th Feb.

General Roberts leaves for Koorum this morning. Wali Mohamed, with Captain Conolly, starts to-day en route for Jellalabad, from which place all political negotiations are conducted now.

The Commissioner of Derajat telegraphs that the Mahsuds are reported to have had a Jirga at Karugaram, but separated without deciding upon any further course, pending instructions from Cabul.

Some *émute* in Seistan against the Persians is apparently occurring.

Calcutta, 12th Feb.

There is news from Peiwar Kothal that a native declares he was present during the fighting at Jirah. The Afridis lost one hundred and forty killed. Malikselah Mursat Kazi and his son, Abdulla Nur, are among the prisoners.

Lahore, 14th Feb.

According to a telegram to the *Civil and Military Gazette*, Wally Mohamed reaches Jellalabad on the sixteenth, and it is believed will accompany Major Cavagnari to Cabul. Wally will be placed on the throne at Cabul if Yakob refuses to accept the peace negotiations.

Bombay, 10th Feb.

The rains have set in heavily at Kandahar. General Stewart is reported to have lost 700 camels during the last fortnight. Colonel

Moore reports that the Ameer is proceeding to Herat. About twenty Atchuksai fanatics, armed with tulwars, daggers and bayonets ran amuck between the lines of the Artillery and 59th Regiments, killing one man and wounding six. Five of the miscreants were cut down, and four others made prisoners, pending an investigation.

THE CAPE WAR.

The following telegrams are from Indian Papers:

London, 11th Feb.

News has been just received from the Cape that the British force consisting of five companies of the 24th Regiment, six hundred natives, and one battery of Artillery, was overwhelmed by a force of twenty thousand Zulus and almost completely annihilated. The British loss was five hundred men killed, two Majors, four Captains, twelve Lieutenants and the Quarter-master of the 24th; two Captains of Artillery, one Colonel and four Lieutenants of the Engineers; also twenty-one British officers in command of the native levies. The Zulus lost five thousand men. The colours of the 24th Regiment and a large convoy of ammunition fell into the hands of the enemy. Sir Bartle Frere has demanded strong reinforcements. Natal is in great danger, and consternation prevails throughout the Colony.

11th Feb.

The 1st Dragoon Guards, the 17th Lancers, the 57th [now in Ceylon], 53th, 91st and 94th Regiments, battalions of the 21st and 60th, and two batteries of Artillery and thirty (?) of Engineers, have been ordered to leave at once for the Cape.

12th Feb.

The killed and missing of the first battalion of the 24th Regiment are:—Major Pelleine; Paymaster White; Captains Degacher, Wardell, Mostyne, Younghusband; Lieutenants Hodson, Cayave, Atkinson, Daly, Ansley, Dyson, Coghill, Porteous, Melville; Adjutant and Quartermaster Pullen. 2nd battalion:—Lieutenants Pope, Austin, Dyer, Griffith, Shephard; Quartermaster Bromfield. Artillery:—Captains Stuart, Smith, and Russell. Engineers:—Colonel Durnford; and Captain Macdonald.

Clippings.

The *Amoy Gazette* publishes the following curious riddle:—A resident of Amoy has the fanciful wish to be relieved of \$1,000 without spending them, giving them away, losing them or getting rid of them in any of the ordinary modes of disposing of superfluous wealth. Can any of your readers suggest how that resident should go about it?—A correspondent, writing over the signature "Probatum Est," replies as follows:—"I know a way out of the difficulty. My solution may not be quite so clever as that which the author of the Problem is likely to have in store for us (I hope he'll let it out in the course of time), but it is nevertheless worth knowing and can be recommended as efficacious. Take one thousand Mexican dollars and send them to the Bank, you will get a receipt for 990 Spanish dollars. Withdraw these 990 Spanish dollars the next day, and you will be paid in Mexican according to weight, the proceeds being about \$994 or less. Now again take these 994 Mexican dollars to the Bank and they will credit you with 984.16 Spanish dollars; draw this sum out towards evening, and it will yield, on the afore-mentioned principle, something like 988 Mexican dollars, more or less. Go on paying in and drawing out like this, and you will find, one glorious summer morning that, when you send the last 2 Mexican cents remaining out of the original \$1,000 to the Bank, the Shroff will inform you that they are base coin, too many to be converted into Spanish cents, and that he has consequently given them to his baby to play with. Should you thereupon express the uncalled for desire to know what has become of your capital, the answer will be that it has fallen a victim to the difference between real and imaginary weight."

BIRTHS.

At "Alderwood," Shanghai, on the 8th inst., the wife of J. ALEX. HARVIE, of a daughter.

At Shanghai, on the 9th inst., the wife of AUGUSTUS WHITE, of a daughter.

At Shanghai, on the 10th inst., Mrs. J. A. STEWART, of a daughter.

At Hankow, on the 1st inst., Mrs. WEATHERSTON, of a daughter.

At Fir Bank, Bowdon, Cheshire, on New-Year's Day, the wife of HENRY DICKINSON, of a son, still born.

DEATHS.

At Shanghai, suddenly, at 5 a.m. on the 11th inst., R. RYDER, a native of Hartlepool, Durham, England.—Home papers please copy.

At Fir Bank, Bowdon, Cheshire, on New-Year's Day, HENRIETTA VANSITTART, the beloved wife of Henry Dickinson, aged 40.

At Dublin, on the 16th January, 1879, JANE, wife of Henry J. Meade, I.M. Customs, Shanghai, aged 29 years.

PASSENGERS.

DEPARTED.

Per M. R. str. *Tokio Maru*, for Nagasaki—Sub-Lieut. Freeman, R.N. For Yokohama—Messrs. C. Lemaire, H. Peters, A. Cavetto and L. Naveze.

ARRIVED.

Per str. *Tientsin*, from Amoy—Captain Schultze.

Per str. *Taku*, from Tientsin—Mr. Mewer.

Per str. *Pekin*, from Hankow—Mr. G. W. F. Armstrong, R.N.

Per str. *Pautah*, from Tientsin—Mrs. Taylor and Mr. Ballar.

Per str. *Kiang-ching*, from Hankow—Mr. Cunningham. From Nanking—Mr. Warwick.

Per str. *Ningpo*, from Hongkong—Messrs. Edgar, Brandt and Fabris.

Per str. *Priam*, from Hongkong—Lieut. Davies, R.N., Lieut. Harvey, R.N., Mr. Hutchinson, R.N.

Per str. *Hae-ting*, from Tientsin and Chefoo—Mr. C. Myres, Mrs. Maclean and Miss Maclean.

Per str. *Amazone*, from Marseilles—Mrs. and Miss French, Sisters Louise, Gabrielle, Julie, Sophie and Therese, Messrs. Delaplace and Burmeister, Fathers Grandier Fapiot, Mager, and Saletto. From Hongkong—Mr. and Mrs. Hitch, Mr. and Mrs. André, Mrs. Van Corbach, Miss Thompson, Chief Justice French, Messrs. Lucas, A. E. Farrar, H. H. Nelson, Sassoon, Hart, Gubbay, and C. G. Beebe.

Per str. *Hwai-yuen*, from Hongkong—Mrs. Vandyke and Mr. Rae.

Per str. *Hiroshima Maru*, from Japan—Lieut. Sasanoff and Mr. K. Ikeda.

Per str. *Diomed*, from Hongkong—Mr. J. Hall.

LEAVING.

Per str. *Djemnah*, for Marseilles—Messrs. J. Haas (Austro-Hungarian Consul), and J. H. Vail. For Hongkong—Messrs. O. Steylech, and E. F. Creagh.

METEOROLOGICAL REPORT.

Day of Month.	Barometer.		Thermometer.		Hygrometer.		WIND.		Rain-fall in inches previous 24 hours.
	9 A.M.	Attached Therm.	Max.	Min.	Dry bulb.	Wet bulb.	Force.	Direction	
Mar 8	30.31	45.0	49.0	33.0	41.0	40.0	2	S.E.	..
9	30.24	46.5	46.0	32.0	43.0	40.0	3	E.N.E.	..
10	30.29	44.0	41.0	39.0	42.0	41.0	2	N.N.E.	..
11	30.15	45.0	48.0	35.0	41.0	39.0	1	N.	..
12	29.85	47.0	47.0	40.0	46.0	44.0	0	Z.	0.45
13	29.80	50.0	52.0	45.0	45.0	44.5	2	E.	2.46
14	30.29	45.0	47.0	40.0	43.0	39.0	2	N.N.E.	0.45

EXPLANATION.

Initials:—b. blue sky; c. clouds; f. fog; h. hail; l. lightning; m. misty (hazy); o. overcast (dull); r. rain; s. snow; t. thunder; z. calm. Force from 1 to 12, estimated.

EXPORT OF TEAS FROM SHANGHAI AND RIVER PORTS.—SEASON 1878-9.

TO GREAT BRITAIN, &c.						TO GREAT BRITAIN, &c.—Continued.					
VESSEL'S NAME.	DATE	CLEARED FOR	BLACK.	GREEN.	TOTAL.	VESSEL'S NAME.	DATE	CLEARED FOR	BLACK.	GREEN.	TOTAL.
			Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.				Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.
Glencagles	May 24	London	21,464.33	.....	21,464.33	Altona..... s.s.	Sep. 13	London	4,570.00	254.28	4,624.28
Loudoun Castle ..	" 26	"	20,043.24	.....	20,043.24	Glaucus	" 14	"	1,725.44	163.22	1,888.66
Anchises	" 24	"	327.72	326.18	653.90	Khedive	" 14	"	3,930.72	342.25	4,272.97
Lombardy	" 25	"	392.87	.....	392.87	"	" 14	Bombay	112.80	179.20	292.00
"	" 25	Bombay	.....	89.38	89.38	Serapis	" 18	London	8,473.18	.....	8,473.18
Ocean King.....	" 29	London	19,092.00	.....	19,092.00	Titanis	" 19	"	6,011.96	.....	6,011.96
Glenartney	" 29	"	17,775.19	.....	17,775.19	Sindh	" 21	"	.....	107.76	107.76
Radnorshire	" 29	"	16,385.45	.....	16,385.45	"	" 21	Bombay	.....	32.51	32.51
Glennear	June 1	"	13,699.74	.....	13,699.74	Ulysses	" 25	London	4,721.81	920.71	5,642.52
Sindh	" 1	Marseilles	12.67	.....	12.67	Hindustan	Oct. 3	Hongkong	.....	30.02	30.02
Sarpedon	" 1	London	17,596.40	.....	17,596.40	"	" 3	London	.....	396.58	396.58
Stad Haarlem.....	" 6	"	19,047.73	.....	19,047.73	"	" 3	Bombay	.....	202.92	202.92
Thibet	" 8	"	3,831.96	.....	3,831.96	Priam	" 3	London	1,240.83	480.70	1,721.53
"	" 8	Hamburg	1.20	.....	1.20	Syria	" 9	"	4,231.47	404.24	4,635.71
"	" 8	Bombay	0.75	39.62	40.37	Diomed	" 9	"	63.76	338.40	402.16
Afghan	" 10	London	18,598.93	.....	18,598.93	Tigre	" 10	"	65.72	238.74	304.46
Hankow	" 13	"	23,067.06	.....	23,067.06	"	" 10	Bombay	.....	53.11	53.11
Orestes	" 13	"	1,280.93	.....	1,280.93	Venetia	" 17	London	.....	771.26	771.26
N'veau Mondellia v.	" 13	Nicolaiefsk	1,548.87	.....	1,548.87	"	" 17	Bombay	.....	63.28	63.28
Argyle	" 18	London	11,472.18	.....	11,472.18	Sarpedon	" 19	London	473.46	882.58	1,356.04
Yangtse	" 15	"	441.15	.....	441.15	Yangtsé	" 23	"	.....	209.35	209.35
"	" 15	Marseilles	34.22	.....	34.22	"	" 23	Bombay	.....	34.30	34.30
Menelaus	" 21	London	3,443.14	.....	3,443.14	Nizam	" 31	London	294.89	22.56	317.45
Sunda	" 22	"	301.92	.....	301.92	"	" 31	Bombay	.....	64.62	64.62
"	" 22	Bombay	6.21	35.54	41.75	Deucalion	" 31	London	1,215.66	402.44	1,618.10
Coriolanus	" 25	London	11,460.13	.....	11,460.13	Glenalloch	Nov. 2	"	103.34	110.51	213.85
Patroclus	" 27	"	3,742.82	.....	3,742.82	Ava	" 7	Bombay	.....	40.90	40.90
"	" 27	Hamburg	3.20	.....	3.20	Antenor	" 9	Port Said	85.15	.....	85.15
Ava	" 29	London	227.89	36.00	263.89	"	" 9	London	2,287.71	551.83	2,839.54
"	" 29	Marseilles	11.39	.....	11.39	Gwalior	" 14	Bombay	.....	279.49	279.49
Seatos	July 6	London	2,248.79	369.25	2,618.04	"	" 14	London	2,280.72	473.61	2,754.33
Teheran	" 6	"	5,152.54	706.87	5,859.41	Orestes	" 18	"	1,259.06	.....	1,259.06
"	" 6	Dunedin	13.59	.....	13.59	Amazon	" 21	"	213.65	.....	213.65
"	" 6	Bombay	27.41	.....	27.41	Thermopylae	" 27	"	6,463.56	399.70	6,863.26
Achilles	" 9	London	3,448.04	.....	3,448.04	Agamemnon	" 29	"	290.33	917.43	1,207.76
"	" 9	Odessa	68.70	.....	68.70	Lombardy	" 29	Bombay	.....	269.09	269.09
Viking	" 10	London	20,346.69	1,553.81	21,900.50	"	" 28	London	1,458.59	442.87	1,901.46
Dago	" 12	"	15,452.59	484.43	15,937.02	Anadyr	Dec. 5	Marseilles	4.82	.....	4.82
Amazon	" 13	"	398.47	506.39	904.86	"	" 5	London	1.50	617.21	618.71
Glengyle	" 17	"	14,595.40	.....	14,595.40	Glennear	" 11	"	783.47	1,430.28	2,213.75
Feronia	" 17	"	12,021.98	.....	12,021.98	Geelong	" 14	"	0.90	430.05	430.95
Kolga	" 17	Nicolaiefsk	1,405.18	.....	1,405.18	Patroclus	" 14	"	.....	2,866.38	2,866.38
Stentor	" 19	London	3,955.01	373.36	4,328.37	Geleuroy	" 14	"	76.81	9,624.20	9,701.01
Cairnmuir	" 21	"	15,049.57	.....	15,049.57	Atma	" 20	"	48.66	3.77	52.43
Malabar	" 24	"	9,940.92	880.42	10,821.34	Peiho	" 21	"	.....	502.94	502.94
Zambesi	" 20	"	4,905.32	1,167.37	6,072.69	Achilles	" 28	"	26.24	2,919.23	2,945.47
"	" 20	Bombay	36.98	32.27	69.25	Teheran	" 28	Bombay	.....	12.42	12.42
Hector	" 26	London	3,313.89	306.29	3,620.18	"	" 28	London	945.81	662.42	1,608.23
Standard	" 26	"	4,424.88	36.56	4,461.44	Sindh	Jan. 4	"	.....	858.50	858.50
Anadyr	" 27	"	0.78	637.69	638.47	Stentor	" 11	"	311.65	2,294.83	2,606.48
Fleuris Castle.....	Aug. 5	"	20,234.52	.....	20,234.52	Mongolia	" 10	"	514.40	1,768.84	1,783.24
Surat	" 3	"	3,585.59	602.94	4,188.53	"	" 10	Bombay	0.40	55.56	55.96
"	" 3	Bombay	23.25	.....	23.25	Iraouaddy	" 17	London	.....	253.64	253.64
Tencer	" 9	London	5,659.69	33.50	5,693.19	Hector	" 20	"	147.85	1,324.90	1,472.75
Peiho	" 10	"	2.23	430.61	423.84	Pekin	" 25	"	121.62	835.41	957.03
City of Baltimore ..	" 12	"	5,605.87	68.13	5,674.00	Tigre	" 31	"	.....	319.29	319.29
Pekin	" 18	"	4,210.04	1,332.61	5,542.65	Malwa	Feb. 8	Bombay	.....	570.83	570.83
Mikado	" 20	"	4,441.02	386.31	4,827.33	"	" 8	London	52.13	271.55	323.68
Djennah	" 24	"	0.42	440.29	440.71	Glengyle	" 8	"	17.95	493.35	511.30
Windhover	" 31	"	8,722.56	138.07	8,860.63	Yangtsé	" 14	Bombay	340.01	.....	340.01
Ajax	" 31	"	1,244.39	474.71	1,719.10	Glaucus	" 21	London	3.92	553.08	557.00
Strathleven	" 31	"	6,240.05	559.25	6,799.30	Gwalior	" 22	Bombay	.....	291.94	291.94
Hesperia	" 31	"	529.29	.....	529.29	"	" 22	London	.....	154.89	154.89
Hesperia	" 31	Hamburg	25.71	.....	25.71	Ava	" 28	Bombay	.....	132.27	132.27
Kashgar	" 31	London	1,791.43	1,721.23	3,512.66	Geelong	Mar. 7	London	.....	447.65	447.65
"	" 31	Venice	1.30	.....	1.30	"	" 7	Bombay	.....	458.73	458.73
"	" 31	Bombay	2.66	48.32	50.98	Ulysses	" 11	London	174.60	612.40	787.00
Iraouaddy	Sept. 7	London	34.00	0.45	34.45	Total			460,178.81	55,675.51	515,854.32
"	" 7	Bombay	.....	26.46	26.46						

EXPORT OF TEAS FROM SHANGHAI AND RIVER PORTS.—SEASON 1878-9.

TO JAPAN AND COAST PORTS AND AMERICA.						TO JAPAN AND COAST PORTS AND AMERICA.—Continued.					
VESSEL'S NAME.	DATE	CLEARED FOR	BLACK.	GREEN.	TOTAL.	VESSEL'S NAME.	DATE.	CLEARED FOR	BLACK.	GREEN.	TOTAL.
			Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.				Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.
Tokio Maru ... s.s.	June 4	Nagasaki	298.76	.....	298.76	Tokio Maru ... s.s.	July 2	Nagasaki	3.30	.....	3.30
" ... "	" 4	Hiogo	4.16	.....	4.16	Anchises	" 9	New York	1.65	.....	1.65
" ... "	" 4	Yokohama	4.85	.....	4.85	Glenorchy ... "	" 16	"	1,206.57	1,210.07	2,416.64
Hiroshima Maru ..	" 8	New York	236.13	.....	236.13	Saikio Maru ... "	" 22	"	70.98	334.54	405.52
" ... "	" 8	Boston	141.43	.....	141.43	" ... "	" 22	Chicago	.....	111.32	111.32
Orestes "	" 8	New York	172.07	.....	172.07	" ... "	" 22	San F'cisco	.....	129.48	129.48
Nagoya Maru....	" 20	"	842.21	.....	842.21	Gordon Castle..	" 27	New York	1,093.68	1,852.37	2,946.05
" ... "	" 20	Boston	88.02	.....	88.02	Hiroshima Maru ..	Aug. 6	"	1.01	692.15	693.16
Menelaus	" 21	New York	44.21	.....	44.21	" ... "	" 6	Chicago	51.50	.....	51.50
Patroclus	" 27	"	204.33	.....	204.33	Saikio Maru ... "	" 22	New York	208.40	207.12	415.52
Saikio Maru ... "	" 25	Yokohama	14.80	.....	14.80	" ... "	" 22	Chicago	.....	784.94	784.94
Tokio Maru ... "	July 2	New York	130.07	.....	130.07	" ... "	" 22	San F'cisco	17.81	1.73	19.54
" ... "	" 2	Chicago	76.91	.....	76.91	Gleniffer	" 31	New York	285.94	2,528.51	2,814.00
" ... "	" 2	San F'cisco	235.39	.....	235.39	Nagaya Maru....	Sep. 10	"	1.64	493.60	495.24

EXPORT OF TEAS FROM SHANGHAI AND RIVER PORTS.—SEASON 1878-9.—Continued.

TO JAPAN AND COAST PORTS AND AMERICA.						TO JAPAN AND COAST PORTS AND AMERICA.—Continued.					
VESSEL'S NAME.	DATE	CLEARED FOR	BLACK.	GREEN.	TOTAL.	VESSEL'S NAME.	DATE	CLEARED FOR	BLACK.	GREEN.	TOTAL.
			Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.				Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.
Nagoya Maru .. s.s.	Sep. 10	Chicago	212.70	550.46	763.16	Glenfinlas	Nov 15	New York	0.18	7,692.80	7,692.98
" .. " ..	" 10	San F'cisco	6.30	115.23	121.53	Haydn Brown... s.v.	" 22	"	416.40	1,647.65	2,064.05
Merionethshire. "	" 19	New York	687.04	9,185.70	9,872.74	Glenartney	" 29	"	22.32	7,405.02	7,427.34
City of Santiago "	" 26	"	.....	3,517.72	3,517.72	Nagoya Maru... "	Dec. 3	"	.....	881.38	881.38
Hiroshima Maru "	Oct. 2	Chicago	16.34	960.37	976.71	J. R. Worcester s.v.	" 13	"	.....	4,773.18	4,773.18
" .. " ..	" 2	San F'cisco	9.00	112.69	121.69	Glenlyon	" 28	"	.....	5,946.17	5,946.17
" .. " ..	" 2	New York	.....	699.40	699.40	Tokio Maru ... "	Jan. 16	Chicago	.....	52.80	52.80
" .. " ..	" 2	Yokohama	5.54	.....	5.54	" .. " ..	" 16	New York	.....	50.38	50.38
Ocean King	" 10	New York	33.97	6,807.34	6,841.31	Golden State ... s.v.	Feb. 3	"	.....	6,557.15	6,557.15
Glencagles	" 15	"	.....	3,980.98	3,980.98	Genkai Maru... s.s.	" 4	Chicago	.....	1,088.77	1,088.77
Genkai Maru... "	" 14	"	.....	440.01	440.01	" .. " ..	" 4	New York	.....	10.77	10.77
" .. " ..	" 14	Chicago	.....	487.93	487.93	Cyphrenes	" 8	"	13.30	2,913.81	2,927.11
Braemar Castle "	" 29	New York	2.27	6,036.69	6,038.96	Mary Whitridges v.	Mar. 6	"	.....	1,600.17	1,600.17
Hiroshima Maru "	" 29	"	930.43	.....	930.43						
Genkai Maru ... "	Nov 15	San F'cisco	.....	30.01	30.01	Total			7,791.16	81,890.41	89,681.57

SHANGHAI OPIUM AND SILK RETURNS FOR SEASON COMMENCING JUNE 1, 1878.

FROM IMPERIAL MARITIME CUSTOMS.

SILK.

	TO GREAT BRITAIN.	TO MARSEILLES AND CONTINENT.	TO AMERICA.	TO HONG-KONG, COAST PORTS, &c.	TOTAL CHINA.	JAPAN TRANSSHIPPED.	GRAND TOTAL.
	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.
Total as per last Report	13,627	28,290	3,997	1,946	47,860	.....	47,860
Subsequent Shipments	444	171	36	82	733	..	733
Total....	14,071	28,461	4,033	2,028	48,593	..	48,593

OPIUM

RETURN FOR WEEK ENDED 8TH MARCH, 1879.

IMPORTED		MALWA.		PATNA.		BENARES.		PERSIAN.	
		Cheats.	Weight.	Cheats.	Weight.	Cheats.	Weight.	Cheats.	Weight.
Imported and stored on board Receiving Vessels		121½	121.50	110	132.00	..	..	5	5.00
Imported and transhipped for re-exportation without being stored on board Receiving Vessels or landed		5	5.00	..	..	..	..	..	..
Imported direct to the shore		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total.....		126½	126.50	110	132.00	..	..	5	5.00
Landed from Receiving Vessels and intended chiefly for Local consumption		13½	13.50	127	152.40	53	63.60	4	4.00

Description.	Chinkiang.	Wuhu.	Kiuk aug.	Hankow.	Chefoo.	Tientsin.	Newchwang.	Ningpo.	Wenchow.	Foochow.	Hongkong.	Total.
RE-EXPORTED.	Chta. Wght.	Chta. Wght.	Chta. Wght.	Chta. Wght.	Chta. Wght.	Chta. Wght.	Chta. Wght.	Chta. Wght.	Chta. Wght.	Chta. Wght.	Chta. Wght.	Chta. Wght.
Malwa	127½ 127.50	49 49.00	21 21.00	5 5.00	24 24.00	185½ 185.50	.. ..	40 40.00	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	402 402.00
Patna	12 14.40	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	15 18.00	.. ..	11 13.20	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	38 45.60
Benares	10 12.00	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	5 6.00	.. ..	5 6.00	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	20 24.00
Persian	14 14.00	3 3.00	5 5.00	1 1.00	2 2.00	6 6.00	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	31 31.00
Turkey .....	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..
Total..	163½ 167.90	52 52.00	26 26.00	6 6.00	26 26.00	101½ 105.50	.. ..	56 59.20	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	491 502.60

COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE.

SHANGHAI, 13TH MARCH, 1879.

PIECE GOODS.—The first steamers returned to Shanghai from Tientsin on the 8th instant, bringing news of a most satisfactory nature as to the prospects of Shirtings, Drills and Sheetings, which had been selling at high rates during the winter, and for which there was a heavy demand; this coupled with better advices from Newchwang at once caused an active enquiry, and considerable sales of 8½-lbs. Shirtings were made, generally at an advance of about a candareen a piece, further sales were made to arrive, and 6 and 7-lbs. were freely asked for; scarcely any being unsold, however, buyers had to content themselves with contracts for forward delivery; White Shirtings were saleable at about 2½ candareens higher for common qualities, but T.Cloths and English Drills only came in for a limited enquiry, the former being rather lower than before, and the latter only saleable as yet in small quantities. The reported sales of Grey Shirtings for the week again amount to the satisfactory number of 170,000 pieces.

For American goods the demand has been extraordinary, as many as 141,000 pieces having been placed chiefly to the Northern buyers; the arrival of the *Edith* from New York gives a timely supply of fresh goods, and considerable quantities will arrive during this month, but apparently not at all more than are wanted. Prices for Drills and Sheetings have risen about 2½ candareens for the former and 5 candareens for the latter, and buyers are still unsatisfied, especially as regards Sheetings, which they are buying "to arrive," all goods arrived being quickly snapped up.

WOOLLEN GOODS are depressed and lower, Camlets owing to the unusual quantities sold at Auction this week.

GREY SHIRTINGS, 8½-lbs.—Reported sales are 125,000 pieces of Hand and Branch at £1.68 to 1.70½, Blue Dragon at £1.66, Dollar, Blue Joss, Green Dragon and Tiger at £1.65, Red Dragon at £1.62, Butterfly and Blue Joss (S T) at £1.62, Windmill, Gun Stand and Blue Railway at £1.61, Horse and Jockey at £1.60 to 1.61, and Red Stag at £1.60, Red Joss at £1.58 to 1.60, Silver Sycee, Horse and 3-Man at £1.59, Gold Globe at £1.50½, Red Pheasant at £1.58, Engine, Blue Cat, Blue Cock, Red Camel and Green Stag at £1.55, Blue Lion and Magpie at £1.52, Red Cat at £1.51½, Warrior at £1.50, Cock at £1.47, Fish at £1.45, and Large Eagle at £1.45.

The demand has been most active this week, and in most cases buyers have been ready to pay 1 candareen higher, some chops, however, are without change; a portion of the sales (for instance the "Magpie") are again for long delivery, say two months, and the market continues almost bare of unsold common qualities.

7-lbs.—No sales are reported, as apparently there are few goods here unsold; to arrive prices are a little higher, but not much, fine goods are still asked for.

6-lbs.—The only sales reported are 5,000 pieces Pagoda at \$1.12½, and 5,000 pieces Green Stag at \$1.15 to arrive in two months; the goods here and now coming in are changing hands amongst the natives at higher rates.

9.12-lbs.—Sales are 33,500 pieces, including 20,000 pieces Dewhurst's Eagle A at \$2.37½, partly here and partly to arrive, also ordinary Dewhurst's Eagle at \$2.14, Blue Lion and Dollar at \$2.14, Blue Joss at \$2.18, Lion and Bird at \$2.11, Green Stag at \$1.92½.

T-CLOTHS, 7-lbs.—Sales are 22,500 pieces of Dollar at \$1.34, Steamer at \$1.24, Blue Dragon and Eye at \$1.25, Red Joss at \$1.15, Gold Globe at \$1.12½, Horse at \$1.04 and Buffalo at \$1.01½. The market is weak, both for private sales and at Auction, and the demand being slack, it is difficult to place goods without giving way in the price.

8-lbs.—The only sale reported is 500 pieces Silver Dog at \$1.42; for ordinary goods there is no demand, and prices would have to be certainly lower to effect sales.

6-lbs.—This weight is wanted for the North, and 3,000 pieces Warrior realised \$0.91.

WHITE SHIRTINGS.—Sales are 5,250 pieces of Stag at \$1.81½, Blue Stag Head at \$1.72½, and Old Man at \$1.65. The news from the North is decidedly favorable, and these goods are wanted, holders however ask a rise, which buyers are willing to pay on common qualities; the finest qualities are just coming into demand, S.T. selling at \$2.60.

DRILLS.—Sales of English are limited to 2,500 pieces of Levita and Hudson's Dragon at \$1.87½, 3-Man at \$1.84, and Stag at \$1.82, at the close there is little more enquiry, but prices offered show no improvement.—American Drills on the contrary have been bought up to a large extent, no less than 58,620 pieces having been placed out of the stock in hand, and ex *Edith* and *City of Santiago* (str.), prices are about 2½ caudarens higher, the sales being as follows:—2,150 bales P M C D at \$2.77½, 850 bales Massachusetts at \$2.72½ to 2.75, 200 bales Stark at \$2.72½, 300 bales Joss at \$2.70, 350 bales Boot at \$2.67½, and 25 bales Lyman at \$2.72½; holders are asking higher prices, and the demand is still unsatisfied.

SHEETINGS.—900 pieces English 14-lbs. Dragon were sold at \$1.95, but the demand has been most excited for American Standard goods, the actual sales amounting to 57,000 pieces as follows, viz.:—1,000 bales Indian Head at \$2.80, 1,650 bales Massachusetts at \$2.70 to 2.75, 150 bales Boot at \$2.65, and 50 bales Appleton at \$2.65, besides this 1,000 bales ½ Indian Head, and ½ Appleton at \$2.75 to arrive are under negotiation; the market may be considered 5 caudarens a piece higher, and the Chinese have now bought up most of the goods to arrive shortly, as well as all that have arrived. Of American Shittings also various sales have been made, such as 2,000 pieces Joss X X at \$2.70, also Anchor 13½-lbs. 40 in. at \$3.12½, 8½-lbs. Spinning Woman at \$1.75, 8-lbs. Bear at \$1.65, and 10-lbs. Sheetings, Pakwa chop at \$1.82 to 1.85, say in all nearly 6,000 pieces.

FANCY COTTONS are quiet, 300 pieces Velvets were sold at \$13.7, Velveteens are dull, Gentian Shittings are selling at \$2.18, Chintz T-Cloths at \$1.65, Blue Chintzes are saleable.

WOOLLENS.—Camlets have again given way owing to the unusual number of pieces forced off at Auction, and most colors are 1 to 2 mace lower, Scarlet Long Ells are 1 mace lower, and Spanish Stripes dull and rather cheaper. Of Figured Orleans, 600 pieces Jar chop sold at \$3.14, and Plain Lustres are still out of demand for Japan.

	Scarlet.	Dk. Blue.	Gentian.	Lt. Gt.	Black.	Purple.	Green.	Orange.	Mauve.	Ash & Lav.	White.	Total Sales
KIN-MING, 11th inst.												
Camlets C.P.H. p. pce. \$	11.50/6	13.40/1	11.80	11.87/98	11.52/4	11.35	13.35	13.02½	12.10	.....	...	...
Sales, pcs...	800	50	90	100	20	10	10	10	10	.....	...	1,000
Long Ells C.P.H. p. pce. \$	6.40/1	6.32½/4	5.55	.....	5.40	6.16/17	6.63/5	5.86	.....	.....	...	...
Sales, pcs...	1,000	60	20	.....	20	60	40	20	.....	.....	...	1,220
Lasting Lion p. pce. \$	.....	.....	.....	.....	10.34/5	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	...	80
„ Elephant p. pce. \$	.....	.....	.....	.....	8.50	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	...	80
S. Stripes C.P.H. p. yd. \$	0.52½/¾	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	...	...
Sales, pcs...	192	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	...	192
E-wo, 12th inst.												
Camlets H.D.B. p. pce. \$	11.37½/40	12.35/7½	11.52½/5	11.87½	11.50	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	...	...
Sales, pcs...	110	30	30	30	10	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	...	210
Long Ells H.D.B. p. pce. \$	6.27/8	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	...	...
Sales, pcs...	240	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	...	240
Sp. Stripes „ p. yd. \$	0.52½/¾	0.61½	0.60½/60.9	.....	0.46½	.....	0.52	.....	.....	.....	...	...
Sales, pcs...	60	6	42	.....	6	.....	6	.....	.....	.....	...	120
YUEN-FONG, 13th inst.												
Camlets S.S.G. p. pce. \$	11.27½/30	12.20/5	11.12½/17½	.....	11.40	.....	.....	12.02½/50	10.75	.....	11.80/12.10	...
Sales, pcs...	120	50	130	.....	10	.....	.....	40	20	.....	20	390
„ G.G. per pce. \$	11.30/5	12.32½	11.22½/32½	12.00	.....	.....	.....	12.55/65	10.77½	.....	11.90/12.10	...
Sales, pcs...	80	20	60	10	.....	.....	.....	20	10	.....	20	220
Long Ells „ per pce. \$	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	...
Sales, pcs...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	...
S. Stripes T.T.B. p. yd. \$	0.53½/54	0.53½/¾	0.62½/3½	.....	.....	0.48/8½	.....	0.50/55½	.....	0.53	0.55½	...
Sales, pcs...	132	24	60	.....	.....	12	.....	12	.....	6	6	252
MISCELLANEOUS.												
Sp. Stripes, Horse p. yd. \$	0.53	.....	.....	.....	0.45½	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	...	...
Sales, pcs...	6	.....	.....	.....	6	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	...	12
Long Ells, U.U. p. pce. \$	6.36	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	...	100
Lasting, Eagle, per pce. \$	.....	.....	.....	.....	8.42/5	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	...	40

AUCTION SALES OF COTTON GOODS—

“Tuh-hsing.”—7th instant—

GREY SHIRTINGS.—8½-lbs. Blue Princess at \$1.61½ to 1.62—500 pcs. = 500 pcs.
T-CLOTHS.—8-lbs. Blue Princess S T at \$1.45—600 pcs.; Green Princess at \$1.21½ to 1.22½—1,000 pcs. = 1,600 „
7-lbs. Green Princess O H at \$1.10½ to 1.10½—1,000 pcs. = 1,000 „

“Tseang-tae.”—10th instant

	Three-Dog.	Red Pagoda.	Red Buffalo.	Black Cormorant.	Red Cormorant.	Red Ship.	
GREY SHIRTINGS—8½-lbs.	\$1.65/65½	\$1.60½/60½	\$1.55½/56	\$1.51½	\$1.55	\$1.47/47½	
Sales, pcs...	250	250	500	250	500	600	= 2,350 „
7-lbs. ....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	\$1.23½	
Sales, pcs...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	250	= 250 „
9.12-lbs. ....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
Sales, pcs...	.....	.....	.....	.....	250	.....	= 250 „
T-CLOTHS—7-lbs.	Pagoda.	Blue Head.	Blue Lion.	T.T.X.	Buffalo.	Blue Ship.	
Sales, pcs...	\$1.22½	\$1.05½/05½	\$1.06/06½	\$1.16/16½	\$1.07½/07½	\$1.13½	
8-lbs.	200	600	300	250	500	300	= 2,150 „
Sales, pcs...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	\$1.25½/26	
6-lbs. ....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	240	= 240 „
Sales, pcs...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	\$0.93½	
WHITE SHIRTINGS—Black Horse Head 72-reed, \$1.92½ to 1.93½ and 66-reed, \$1.76½ to 1.77	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	400	= 400 „
IRISHES—Woman, at \$2.21½	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	= 300 „
	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	= 100 „

“King Ming.”—11th instant—

	Red Ram	Blue Ram.	Blue Lion.	Red Lion (mild.)	Red Ram (mild.)	Blue Ram (mild.)	Red Eagle.	
GREY SHIRTINGS—8½-lbs.	\$1.62½/62½	.....	\$1.53½	\$1.55	.....	.....	.....	
Sales, pcs...	1,500	.....	900	1,100	.....	.....	.....	= 3,500 „
7-lbs. Peacock at \$1.22½	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	= 150 „
WHITE SHIRTINGS—64-reed Red Lion at \$1.80½ to 1.81½; Green Lion at \$1.74½	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	= 500 „

“Nie Kee.”—11th instant—

	Sun, 1½ to 3-lbs. Eagle, 1½ to 2½-lbs. Fisherman, 2½ to 3-lbs. Bull Head, 1½ to 2½-lbs. Lizard, 2-lbs. to 3-lbs.						
TURKEY RED CAMBRICS.....	\$1.15/1.35	\$1.10½/1.21	\$1.28/1.45½	\$1.18½/1.25½	.....	.....	.....
Sales, pcs...	439	315	980	211	.....	.....	= 1,945 „

"E-Wo."—12th instant—		Total.
GREY SHIRTINGS—8½-lbs. Blue Dragon (damaged) at £1.64½—250 pcs.; T-Cloths 8-lbs. Blue Dragon, at £1.41 to 1.41½—350 pcs.		= 600 pcs.
WHITE SHIRTINGS—No. 4 to 8 at £2.22 to 2.50½—400 pcs.; No. 500 and 800, at £2.20 to 2.50½—200 pcs.		= 600 "
TURKEY RED CAMBRICS—2½ to 2½ lbs. £1.18 to 1.36½		= 750 "
"Yuen-fong."—13th instant—		
GREY SHIRTINGS—8½-lbs., Two-Man, at £1.45½—2,000 pcs.; House, £1.45½ to 1.46½—1,800 pcs.		= 3,800 "
6-lbs., Two-Man, at £1.16½ to 1.16½		= 500 "
WHITE SHIRTINGS—64-reed Lighthouse, at £1.67½ to 1.67½		= 2,000 "
DRILLS—14 lbs. Peacock, at £1.73½ to 1.74½		= 1,080 "
SUNDRY AUCTIONS—		
TURKEY RED CAMBRICS—Gold Dragon, 2½ to 3-lbs. at £1.20½ to 1.43½; Butterfly, 2½ to 2½ lbs. at £1.23; Horseman, 2 to 2½ lbs. at £1.19½ to 1.27½; Stag, 3-lbs. at £1.20 to 1.22½; Woman, 2 to 2½ lbs. at £1.07½ to 1.21½		= 2,440 "
VELVETS—22-inch Woman at £0.12.9 to 0.13; Velvetens 18-inch Stag at £0.11.32.2 to 0.11.37½		= 240 "

ARTICLES.		QUOTATIONS.		ARTICLES.		QUOTATIONS.	
Cotton Piece Goods.		T.m.c.	T.m.c.			T.m.c.	T.m.c.
G. E. GREY SHIRTINGS—				BROAD CLOTH.....per yard		1.25	1.60
38½ yds. 39 in. 6-lbs.	per piece	1.12	1.20	CAMELITS—			
7-lbs.		1.20	1.40	English, 88, 56 yds. 31 in. Assorted.		11.00	11.75
8½ to 8½-lbs.		1.44	1.71½	LONG ELLS—			
Dewhurst XX		1.73½		Scarlet, 24 yds. 31 in. 12-lbs.		6.00	6.50
9 to 9½-lbs.	nom.	1.90	2.00	Assorted		6.00	6.30
9.12 to 10-lbs. common quality		1.92	2.35	LASTINGS, 30 yds. 31 in.		7.15	11.00
best quality		2.40	2.55	CRAPE LASTINGS, 30 yds. 31 in. Asst.		3.70	7.50
G. E. WHITE SHIRTINGS—				LUSTRES, Assorted		2.70	3.25
40 yds. 36 in. 56 reed		1.45	1.55	ORLEANS, Figured, 30 yds. 30 in. Asst.		3.15	3.55
60 reed	nom.	1.50	1.60	Plain, 30 yds. 31 in. Black.		3.05	2.35
64 reed		1.60	1.70	Metals and Sundries.			
64 reed best		1.70	1.90	JAPAN COPPER—Slabs.....per picul		15.60	16.00
66 to 72 reed		1.90	2.10	Ore.....		14.50	14.80
best		2.10	2.60	QUICKSILVER.....		48.00	48.50
AMERICAN DRILLS—				TIN PLATES—14 x 10.....per box		4.00	4.20
40 yds. 30 in. 14-lbs.		2.70	2.80	STEEL.....per picul		2.80	2.90
AMERICAN JEANS—				Bamboo.....		3.30	3.50
30 yds. 30 in. 6½ to 8-lbs.		1.40	2.15	TIN, Fong Hing.....		16.20	16.30
AMERICAN SHEETINGS—				Quang-dia.....		15.50	15.60
40 yds. 40 in. 14-lbs. best		2.67½	2.80	Fok Chok.....		15.80	
ENGLISH DRILLS—				HOOP IRON.....		2.50	2.60
40 yds. 30 in. 14 to 15-lbs.		1.77	1.90	PIO IRON.....per ton		16.00	18.00
best		2.00	2.20	IRON WIRE, Nos. 11 & 14.....per picul		4.30	
ENGLISH JEANS—				" 11 & 21.....		4.40	
30 yds. 30 in. 8 to 8½-lbs.		1.30	1.80	" 15 & 25.....		5.20	5.30
ENGLISH SHEETINGS—				IRON—Nail Rod—			
40 yds. 40 in. 14 & 16-lbs.		1.97	2.20	Dawes' Best.....per picul		1.95	
DUTCH DRILLS—				H. Rogers, Sons & Co.....		1.85	1.90
30 in. 40 yds.		2.05	2.10	M.M. Crown.....		1.77½	1.80
DUTCH JEANS—				Belgian.....		1.70	1.75
30 in. 40 yds.		1.60	1.90	Flat and Round.....		2.00	2.30
T-CLOTHS—				Do. Belgian.....		1.90	1.95
6-lbs. 24 yds. 32 in. Ordinary.		0.88	0.92	LEAD, common brands.....nom. per picul		3.90	4.00
7-lbs.		0.94	1.03	L B.....		4.10	4.20
7-lbs. " Mexican "		1.05	1.50	SUGAR			
8 & 8½-lbs. 36 in.		1.23	1.65	Black, common.....per picul		2.90	3.30
XX and best		1.70	1.90	Formosa.....		3.30	3.60
HANDKERCHIEFS, Blue, 28 in. to 32 in. per doz.		0.45	0.55	White, No. 1.....		6.80	7.00
Brown, 28 in.		0.40	0.42	" No. 2.....		6.20	6.40
GENTIAN SHIRTINGS.....per piece		2.00	2.40	" No. 3.....		5.40	5.80
BROCADES, White, 40 yds. 36 in., nom.		1.60	1.70	PEPPER—Black.....		6.10	6.20
Dyed, Assorted.....		2.30	2.60	White.....		11.20	11.50
DAMASKS, Assorted, 40 yds. 26 in., nom. per piece		3.80	4.20	RATTANS—Common.....per picul		2.20	2.60
CHINTZ, Assorted, 28 yds. 28 in.		1.30	1.45	Good to fine.....		3.00	4.00
Blue.....		1.18	1.23	Best.....		4.50	5.00
Brown.....nom.		1.20	1.35	SAPAN WOOD—			
Scarlet.....nom.		1.30	1.50	3 pieces to the picul.....		2.60	2.70
TURKEY REDS, 24 yds. 32 in. 2½ to 3-lbs.		1.10	1.60	6 & 7 " & inf.....		1.50	1.70
VELVETS, Black, 22 in.....per yard		0.13	0.16½	SANDALWOOD, South Sea.....		8.00	10.00
VELVETEENS, Black, 18 in.....		0.11½	0.13	Timor.....		3.40	3.80
26 in.....		0.15½	0.18	Malabar.....		16.00	18.00
MUSLINS, 12 yds. 42 in.....per piece		0.60	0.68	WINDOW GLASS—			
DIMITIES, 12 yds. 36 in.....		1.00	1.20	Large.....nom. per box		2.15	2.40
41 in.....		1.20	1.50	Small.....		1.90	2.00
YARN, Cotton, Nos. 28 & 32.....per bale		65.00	80.00	KEROSINE—Devoe's.....per case		1.58	1.61
SPANISH STRIPES, Assorted.....per yard		0.48	0.55	COTTON—Shanghai.....per picul		10.50	12.00
MEDIUM and HABIT CLOTHS.....		0.70	1.05	FLINT STONES.....		0.45	

METALS.—Nail-rod and Bar Iron are higher, more especially for Belgian, sales of the former were made ex ship at £1.70 to 1.72, and the price of Belgian is now £1.75.—Of Dawes' Bar, 875 piculs sold at £1.82½; of Dawes' Nail-rod 3,440 bundles at £1.82, and of Belgian Nail-rod 2,000 bundles at £1.65—all damaged and at Auction. 2,000 bundles of Dawes' Nail-rod were also placed at £1.95. Of Lead, 150 tons L B were sold as low as £4.10; rather better can be obtained now.

KEROSENE OIL has again given way on account of heavy arrivals, and Auction sales have been made at £1.61 to 1.58.

EXPORTS.

SILK.—We quote the following from Mr. W. T. Phipps' circular:—The market remains very quiet, with no change to record in prices, excepting that No. 4 Taslees are if anything a trifle stronger.

The week's business includes nearly 120 bales of long reel Taysaams at Tls. 230 & Tls. 245, and over 200 bales of re-reels at Tls. 350 & 380 for the next American steamer. Rejected Blue Elephant Chop Tsatlee is reported taken at Tls. 353½ per picul.

The following purchases are reported:—

	Per picul.	Per lb.
Gold Lion, No. 4.....	Tls. 255	= 15.8
Takes Chop, Nos. 4 and 4½.....	Tls. 260 and 350	= 15.5 and 15.9
Mountain, No. 1.....	Tls. 357½	= 15.4
Blue Elephant.....	Tls. 353½	= 15.2
Common Taslees.....	Tls. 360	= 12/11

Total settlements for the season are 51,000 bales, leaving an unsold stock of 9,000 bales.

COMMERCIAL POSTSCRIPT.

MARCH 14, 1879.

ARRIVALS during the week.—March 7th, British steamer *Teviot*, from London, &c.; 10th, British steamer *Priam*, Liverpool, &c.; 11th, American ship *Edith*, from New York; 12th, M.M. steamer *Amazon*, with the French mails, &c.; British steamer *Diomed*, from Liverpool; British ship *Argus*, from New York.

DEPARTURE during the week.—March 7th, American ship *Mary Whitridge*, for New York; 8th, P. & O. steamer *Geelong*, with the English mails, &c.; British steamer *Ulysses*, for London via Amoy.

The M.M. mail steamer *Djemnah* takes about 1,200 bales of SILK and about 50 tons of TEA.

EXCHANGE.—On London, Telegraphic Transfers, 4s. 9½d. Bank Bills, 6 months' sight, 4s. 11½d. to 4s. 11½d. First-class Credits to Bank, 4s. 10½d. Private and Documentary, 4s. 10½d. On Paris, Bank, 6.15. Private, 6.28. On India, Bombay Bank, demand, Rs. 300 to 303; Calcutta, Bank, demand, Rs. 300 to 303. On Hongkong, Bank Bills, demand, 27½ per cent. discount. Private, 15 days' sight, 27½ per cent. discount. Bullion, Gold Bars, Peking, Shanghai 11s. 199 per bar of 10 Tls. Shanghai weight. Bar Silver, Shanghai Tls. 111.20 per 100 taels Canton weight. Mexican dollars, Shanghai Tls. 72.85 per 100. Copper Cash, 1,456 per tael.

SHARES.

SHANGHAI, 14th March, 1879.

Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation.—No transactions are reported in this stock. In Hongkong, shares have changed hands at 42% premium.

China Coast Steam Navigation Co.—Buyers offer £108 for delivery on 30th April, and £106 for cash.

Shanghai Tug-Boat Association.—One or two lots have been sold at £125.

Compagnie du Gaz.—Business is reported at £145.

Shanghai Gas Co.—Buyers offer £125, while shares are held for £130.

China Traders' Insurance Co.—No local business is reported in this stock. The latest advices from Hongkong quote buyers at \$1,300 to \$1,350, while holders ask \$1,400.

North-China Insurance Co.—Several shares have changed hands at £1,250.

Yangtze Insurance Association.—There are sellers at £715.

Chinese Insurance Association.—This stock is weak, with sellers at \$292½.

Hongkong Fire Insurance Co.—A few shares have been placed at \$770 ex dividend. They are now procurable at \$760.

China Fire Insurance Co.—Business has been done at \$170 ex dividend, at which there are sellers.

Chinese Imperial Government Loan of 1877.—There are buyers at £109.

SHARES.	No.	Value.	Paid up.	POSITION PER LAST REPORT.			LAST DIVIDEND, &c.		CASH QUOTATIONS.
				Reserve.	At Working Account.	Date.	To Shareholders.	When pd. or due.	
<i>Bank.</i>									
Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation	40,000	£125	£125	\$1,300,000	\$29,525.50	31 Dec. 78	* £1	18 Feb. 79	42% prem. nominal.
<i>Steamer Companies.</i>									
Shanghai Steam Navigation Co. (in Liquidation)	22,500	£100	£10.50	.....	.....	30 Dec. 77	{ Return of £ 3 on capital.	15 Jan. 79	16
China Coast Steam Navigation Co.	5,000	£100	£100	£70,249.82	£24,587.54	31 Dec. 78	+ 9 %	11 Mar. 79	106
Shanghai Tug Boat Association	900	£100	£100	.....	.....	.....	4 %	21 Jan. 79	125
<i>Docks.</i>									
Shanghai Dock Co.	440	£500	£500	£10,109.90	.....	30 June 78	* 2 %	8 Jan. 79	238
Footung Dock Co.	950	£100	£100	.. ..	.....	.....	* 5 %	9 Jan. 79	98
<i>Gas.</i>									
Shanghai Gas Co.	1,500	£100	£100	£8,640.30	.....	31 Dec. 77	* 5 %	20 Jan. 79	125
Compagnie du Gaz	500	£100	£100	£6,436.23	£11.42	31 Dec. 78	* 6 %	17 Feb. 79	145
<i>Insurance (Marine.)</i>									
China Traders' Insurance Co., Limited	600	1,666.67	\$500	\$225,000.00	\$92,935.52	30 Apl. 78	12 %	31 July 78	1,400 nominal.
North-China Ins. Co., 1875/77 Do. 1878	1,000	£2,000	£600	.....	£542,051.14	30 June 78	£140	2 July 78	30
Union In. Society of Canton ...	500	\$2,500	\$500	\$262,132.10	\$21,091.40	31 Dec. 77	+ \$113.37	30 Sep. 78	1,250
Yangtze Insurance Association	1,200	£350	£350	£334,144.48	£74,285.99	15 Apr. 78	* 6 %	20 Jan. 79	1,600
Chinese Insurance Co., Limited	1,500	\$1,000	\$200	\$74,133.82	.....	30 Dec. 76	* 6 %	1 Jan. 79	715
<i>Insurance (Fire.)</i>									
Hongkong Fire In. Co., Limited	2,000	\$1,000	\$200	\$701,842.00	\$271,923.55	31 Dec. 78	+ \$57.95 p.sh.	26 Feb. 79	292½ nominal.
China Fire In. Co., Limited ...	4,000	\$500	\$100	\$346,896.00	\$164,354.46	31 Dec. 78	+ 12 %	24 Feb. 79	760
<i>Miscellaneous.</i>									
Shanghai & H'kew Wharf Co.	2,150	£100	£100	£5,000.00	£2,000.86	31 Dec. 78	* 7 %	25 Feb. 79	170

LOANS.	Amount of Loan.	Nominal Value of Bonds or Debentrs.	Rate of Interest.	When Payable.	Closing.
Shanghai Mun. Debentures—Issue 1872	£ 28,700.00	£ 100.00	8 %	30th April & 31st Oct.	} £104½ nom.
Do. 1873	£ 21,000.00	£ 100.00	"	30th June & 31st Dec.	
Do. 1875	£ 42,800.00	£ 100.00	"	30th June & 31st Dec.	
Do. 1878	£ 24,000.00	£ 100.00	"	28th Feb. & 31st Aug.	
Lycium Theatre Ordinary Debentures..	£ 17,000.00	£ 25.00	"	30th June.	} £ 13 ex int.
Do. Preference do.	£ 5,362.50	£ 37.50	5½ %	31st Dec.	
Chinese Imperial Government Loan 1874	£ 627,615	£ 100	8 %	30th June & 31st Dec.	£ 20 nom.
Do. do. 1877	£ 1,604,276	£ 100	8 %	28th Feb. & 31st Aug.	£ 101 do.
					£ 109

* For half-year + For year.

J. P. BISSET & Co.

THE WEATHER during the week has been variable. Commencing with rain, the sky remaining overcast and the temperature raw and biting but with little rain until Wednesday, on the afternoon of which day heavy rain set in accompanied by thunder and lightning of great intensity, and lasting with but little intermission until nearly midnight, the temperature being sensibly warmer. On Thursday rain fell nearly all day, but to-day is bright and fine. The thermometer has ranged from 31 to 51.